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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-191
Tuesday
2 October 1990

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Maghreb Union To Eliminate Noncustoms Barriers

AB0110214490 Paris AFP in French 1316 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 29 Sep (AFP)—Commerce ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] countries have decided to eliminate noncustoms barriers that exist between member countries, namely, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Libya, and Tunisia, it was announced in Nouakchott yesterday. A communique, issued after the ministers' deliberations which began on Thursday [25 September], states that a working group will meet next week in Algiers to examine customs unification of the five countries.

A working group has been set up to identify the noncustoms obstacles that are to be gradually eliminated. The ministers also appointed experts to design a unified organization in the foreign trade and import-export sectors which will be tied to the other groupings. Finally, the UMA commerce ministers agreed to hold a Maghreb fair in Tunis in early 1991.

Islamic Affairs

Kuwaiti Amir Chairs ICO Ministers Meeting

LD0210080690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0652 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] New York, 2 Oct (SPA)—The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers held a meeting in New York this morning during which they discussed the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and international efforts that call for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government.

This meeting was chaired by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, who made an opening speech in which he praised the support of the Islamic world and international community for the State of Kuwait during these times.

During this meeting, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' spoke on behalf of the Arab group; the Pakistani foreign minister spoke on behalf of the Asian group; and the Senegalese foreign minister spoke on behalf of the African group. In their speeches, the ministers stressed the solidarity of the Islamic world with Kuwait and condemnation of the treacherous Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait. They also called for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, which stipulate the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Bandar bin-Sultan, Saudi ambassador to Washington and member of the Saudi delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings.

Earlier today, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal took part in the joint meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers and those from Southeast Asia. During the meeting, they discussed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and a number of current international issues.

Islamic Delegation Concludes Tour of Capitals

Returns to Jordan on Iranian Plane

JN0110115890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Oct 90 p 13

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—For the first time in nine years, an Iranian plane has landed at Queen Alia International Airport. It arrived at 1330 yesterday, carrying members of the world popular Islamic delegation. Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani ordered that the plane be put at the disposal of the delegation after it ended a visit to Tehran.

The plane's captain, Fazrik Shakyan [name as published], expressed happiness to be landing at a Jordanian airport. He said: Our private flight from Tehran to Amman took two hours and 50 minutes because we took a route through Turkish and Syrian airspace.

He added: We will leave for Tehran in two hours, after attending a luncheon hosted by the Queen Alia Airport director in honor of the crew of the aircraft. He referred to the utmost hospitality he was accorded at the airport by Jordanian officials.

The captain of the aircraft voiced hope that relations between Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran would be resumed as soon as possible.

Al-Turabi Views Iraqi Position

JN0210075790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Oct 90 pp 1, 15

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Islamic leaders are reporting a "certain element of flexibility" in the Iraqi position on the Gulf crisis, including a possible partial withdrawal from Kuwait if a "reasonable offer" is presented to Baghdad.

However, "we are unable to tell you what exactly would be a reasonable offer to Iraq... but the French initiative is one which could be built on," according to Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, a member of an Islamic delegation which visited Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran last month.

In general terms, "a linkage between a solution to the Gulf crisis and a settlement to the Palestinian problem" is one of the fundamentals of the Iraqi position, Turabi told a press conference.

If such a linkage was established and accepted, and "if the context is exclusively Arab with no intervention or presence which can distort the considerations of an Arab context and if a reasonable offer that satisfies the Iraqis was presented, then the Iraqis will consider it even if it involves a measure of withdrawal from Kuwait and a restoration of the right of the Kuwaitis to determine the destiny of their country," he added.

At the same time, the "momentum for war" that is building in the region should be checked to make way for a negotiated settlement of the conflict, Turabi told the press conference, announcing the outcome of a mission undertaken by the delegation over the past two weeks.

The delegation, whose visit to Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran was aimed at "exploring possibilities of concord, positions of the various parties involved and counselling and advancing the cause of peace," found that "the stands of the parties involved are not that rigid and the differences are not that deep," said al-Turabi, a leader of the Islamic movement in Sudan. "We found an aversion to war," he said.

"There are reasonable grounds to hope for a negotiated peace solution if time is given for a peace process to take its course...(and)... it will be a pity if this opportunity is wasted," said al-Turabi.

Although the Iraqi position is flexible, there is also a "determination not to (consider) any unilateral withdrawal from Kuwait and determination to accept the consequences of their position... they are ready to go to war if need be (but) are (also) keen to seek a peaceful solution."

It was the first independent confirmation of what is widely interpreted as a softening of the Iraqi position evident in a speech made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Sunday in which he called for dialogue instead of threats and pressures to end the Gulf crisis.

According to al-Turabi, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as well as religious leaders of the kingdom, which sought Western military presence in its territory after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, told the delegation that Riyadh was "very sympathetic to Iraq's grievances against Kuwait" but an Iraqi withdrawal and the restoration of the pre-invasion status in Kuwait were the basic Saudi preconditions before any discussion on the issue. The Saudis are ready to "conceive all this in any arrangement whatsoever," he said.

A source close to the delegation said the Saudi leadership also took a firm position, saying it would drop "all flexibility" if any Islamic movement under the umbrella of the delegation undertook any "anti-American attack."

In official terms, the 21-member delegation represented the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and Syria, the Islamic movement of Sudan, the Al Nahda movement of Tunisia, the Hezbe-e-Islami of Pakistan, the Refah group of Turkey, the Islamic party of Malaysia and the corrective and guidance movement of Algeria. In essence, all these groupings are variations of Muslim fundamentalists who have taken a serious view towards the non-Arab, non-Islamic content in the multi-national force assembled in Saudi Arabia, which houses Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest shrines.

The delegation, which was mandated by a Sept. 12-15 conference in Amman to seek possibilities of a negotiated settlement to the Gulf crisis, reaffirmed its opposition to the Western presence in Saudi Arabia. It was headed by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, spiritual leader of Jordan's Muslim brotherhood, and included Judge Hussein Ahmad (Pakistan), Rachid Ghanouchi (Tunisia), Hasan Huwaydi (Syria), Ibrahim Shukri (Egypt), Kamil al-Sharif (Jordan), Abdul Hadi Awanek (Malaysia), Yasin 'Abd-al-'Aziz (Yemen), Munir Shafiq (Palestine), Ibrahim Ghawsh Shamas (Palestine), 'Adil Husayn (Egypt), Maffoud Nahna (Algeria), and Najibuddin Arbekan (Turkey) in Addition to al-Turabi.

Ibrahim Mas'ud Khuraysat (Jordan), Khalil Al Ahamedi (Pakistan), Mahdi Ibrahim (Sudan), Khorsheed Ahmad (Pakistan), Ahmad 'Azz-al-Din (Egypt), and 'Abd-al-Rahman Khuraysh served as consultants.

The movements represented by the delegation agree that any solution to the Gulf crisis "must necessarily involve the withdrawal of all forces, withrawal of Iraq with consideration to its legitimate grievances and the right of the Kuwaiti people to determine their fate and the linkage of this problem with the Palestinian problem," according to a summary of a six-page statement read out by Khalifah at the outset of the press conference.

Reporting on the delegation's talks in Tehran, where it was received by supreme leader 'Ali Khamene'i, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other officials and religious scholars, al-Turabi said while Iran insisted on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait the possibility remained strong that the Iranians would join the Iraqis in the event of a war.

"Iran still insists on the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and of foreign forces" from Saudi Arabia, al-Turabi said. "But if war erupts, Iran might give priority to (the presence of foreign forces) over other issues and view the presence of the foreign forces much more seriously..."

Al-Turabi also warned that there could be no "limited war" in the region and that Muslims would rise up and fight. "If there is an eruption of hostilities, it will not only be the Iranians but many areas in the Muslim World would resist and (wage) Jihad."

"Jihad does not translate into holy war," he added. "It will be jihad in all forms of struggle, from powerful expression of opinion, individual acts of resistance and aggression and targetting the enemy in an all out war wherever he is..."

He argued that such a scenario was a strong possibility since "there is a sacred element, which is the presence of foreign non-Muslim forces in the holy land and this is a very explosive element."

According to the delegation's statement presented at the press conference, "the absence of Islamic order is responsible for the division, ideological and regional, and leads Muslims to conflict..."

The statement also appealed for a "more comprehensive attitude to the crisis which averts further crises in the area," and to "Muslim rulers to save blood and protect the sanctity of this area and protec their holy land, territories and wealth."

Khalifah Comments on Mediation

JN0110135490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Oct 90 pp 16, 12

[Report by Ahmad Shakir and Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, the controller general of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and head of the Islamic delegation for mediation in the Gulf crisis, has described the results of the delegation's tour in four Arab and Islamic capitals as encouraging. He said it gave some hope toward uniting the word of the Muslim countries and cooperating to restore trust amongst them.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR after his return from Tehran at noon yesterday, he said the delegation's discussions in Amman, Jeddah, Baghdad, and Tehran had restored optimism over the well-being of our Islamic nation and will have a bearing on new relations that will become stronger in the future.

He added that a comprehensive and full statement on all the efforts would be issued in the next two days. It will include hope and optimism about restoring the good relations based on respect for the people's will under the umbrella of Islam, which unites all the sons of this nation in all that is good and just.

Mr. Khalifah went on to say: We noted various opinions about the previous events, but they all stem from the basic premise of securing the nation's interests and thwarting the cunning of evil countries who have designs to recolonize these countries. He said that the United States in particular, has created this hubbub because it is afraid of the growing power of the Arab armies, primarily the Iraqi Army, and that the will of the people to meet the demand of jihad to liberate the usurped homeland will play an important role in the war.

He said: We found a response in every country we visited, especially in Iran, where the call by the Muslim Brotherhood and those who care about the Islamic homeland in general and the Palestine question in particular, and the knowledge that the prime enemy of the Islamic world and Muslim causes is the United States and those who are protected by it, are almost common denominators.

Mr. Khalifah noted that the United States has made the imperialist countries drool over coming to the Gulf region and the Arab homeland once again to restore colonialism and involve themselves in controlling resources and geographic and strategic locations. He then added that what has thwarted the U.S. schemes is the awareness of the people, the response of many of those who listen to the voice of reason, and appeals to the rulers of the Islamic shrines to take the general interest into account again and restore peace to our Arab homeland, which the United States is attempting to change into a new war arena.

He said that the differences in the interpretations will come under the just Arab and Islamic umbrella, despite the continuing massing of U.S. and European troops. He pointed out that those who love their Muslim homeland and the Islamic countries will prevent these lands from becoming arenas of a destructive war.

He went on to say that jihad has now become a duty for every Muslim man and woman, because the enemies have trodden on the land of the Muslims and have taken control of its sanctities. The United States, through its ally Israel, controls Jerusalem—the first Qiblah and the Prophet's place of ascension to heaven—and the whole of Palestine. And then, it managed to control, through devious and underhand methods, the Muslim sanctities of the holy Kaaba and al-Madinah.

Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, the official spokesman of the delegation, said the efforts of the popular Islamic delegation will continue, God willing. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Turabi hinted that the formula for simultaneous withdrawal, a comprehensive settlement of the events in the region, removal of the causes of these events, and providing guarantees for ending the military threat—irrespective of which side it comes from—were the common points of the demands made by all. [passage omitted]

He added that our efforts will be balanced along with other diplomatic efforts and that the hospitality, good reception, frankness, and openness with which we were received during this visit give us hope to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. [passage omitted]

Khalifah Reads Statement

JN0210091790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] At the end of its tour, which covered Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran to mediate a solution to the Gulf crisis, the Islamic delegation held a news conference this morning during which the head of the delegation, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, read a statement on the results of the tour and the meetings the delegation held with officials of the states it visited. More details are in the following report from our correspondent for administrative affairs, Salim 'Ali Diyab:

[Begin recording] [Diyab] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, head of the Islamic delegation, has said that the delegation began its contacts by meeting with His Majesty King Husayn to brief him on the results of the Islamic meeting held in Amman early last month among Islamic movements in Egypt, Jordan, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, Pakistan, Turkey, Malaysia, Palestine, and Algeria.

[Khalifah] The delegation began its contacts by meeting with King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan to brief him on the results of the Islamic meeting. It also listened to his full explanation of the background to the problem as he views it, the outcome of his contacts with Arab and foreign leaders, and his overall views on the required Arab-Islamic solution.

[Diyab] During the news conference, Khalifah added that the delegation visited Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran and met with the leaders of the three states to hear explanations of their positions on the current crisis.

[Khalifah] The delegation also listened to a comprehensive explanation from Saudi officials of their position on the crisis. It also sensed King Fahd's clear readiness to adopt an Arab-Islamic solution. King Fahd also spoke well of President Saddam Husayn, recalling their cordial relations and stressing that he would not allow Saudi territory to be the base for an attack on Iraq. President Saddam Husayn also explained the circumstances that preceded the crisis and the legitimate demands that were announced by Iraq before the invasion, stressing that if these demands had been met, the crisis would have been averted. He recalled his 12 August 1990 initiative, which linked the Gulf issue to the other issues of the region, especially the Palestine question. He added that the initiative still exists and that it is the desired solution to this crisis. The delegation praised the spirit of steadfastness of the Iraqi leadership and people, its total readiness to sacrifice in defense of the homeland and Islamic principles, and the support of the Arab and Islamic peoples for it. Iranian officials and members of the delegation also had frank conversations on the aim of the visit, Iran's position on the Gulf crisis, and the role it can play in removing the specter of war from the region, reaching an Arab-Israeli solution that guarantees the legitimate rights of all sides, and breaking the aggressive siege against Iraq. These discussions were deep and clear, and indicated eagerness to unify the Islamic position.

[Diyab] The head of the Islamic delegation said that, during its tour and meetings with the leaders of the countries it visited, the delegation concluded the following:

[Khalifah] We must intensify efforts to find an Arab-Islamic solution to the current crisis in order to remove the specter of war, guarantee the foreign forces' departure and Iraq's withdrawal, consider Iraq's legitimate demands and Islamic arbitration, achieve the Kuwaiti people's legitimate aspirations in their homeland, and maintain security throughout the region in the future. If this solution is placed within an international framework, it should be linked to the Palestine question and Israeli aggression, which denies successive UN resolutions and human rights. A comprehensive settlement of the region's disputes should take into account the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons arsenal in Israel, which is the reason for the continuing arms race in the region and which prevents any hope for a just and lasting peace.

[Diyab] Regarding the delegation's program after the first stage of its mediation, delegation member Dr. Hasan al-Turabi said:

[Al-Turabi] The Islamic meeting has not yet ended, and we are in constant touch. We also have a permanent body that will continue contacts with us and will inform us if anything positive happens, God willing, so that we can resume our work. We will, however, resume the meeting after several weeks, God willing, to agree on a comprehensive assessment of the solution and to resume our tour of the capitals. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Requests Special Security Council Session

JN0110182590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The PLO has asked for an extraordinary UN Security Council session to discuss the grave escalation of organized and bloody terrorism against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. In a press statement issued today in Tunis by brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, Abu-Sharif stressed the need for the Security Council to hold an extraordinary session to discuss the serious situation resulting from the escalation of Zionist terrorism, and to take practical steps to end the occupation and implement the resolutions of the Security Council and the United Nations relevant to the Palestine question, especially Security Council Resolution 242.

Brother Abu-Sharif said clashes between the Zionist occupation forces and Palestinian citizens have begun to to overwhelm the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Three people were martyred today. They are: Nazir Nayif Salim, 15; Ahmad Shihadah, 57; and 'Abd-al-Rahman Yusuf, 32. Seventy-two people were also injured, with some taken to the al-Maqasid hospital in serious condition.

PLO sources said that since this morning, Israeli occupation authorities have been perpetrating an ugly collective crime against the students of the Jamma'in high school in the occupied territories. Israeli forces aided by armed settlers attacked the school using machine guns, revolvers, and tear gas canisters inside classrooms. Students' families rushing to rescue their sons clashed with the occupation forces and Zionist settlers.

Abu-Sharif said the PLO—while stressing anew the responsibility of the Security Council for protecting the Palestinian people, who are suffering from the ugliest campaigns of oppression and organized terrorism under the yoke of occupation—demands that the Council hold a meeting to take the necessary practical measures to protect the Palestinian people and end the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Abu-Sharif added that the U.S. Administration, by using its veto to protect Israel and cover its institutionalized crimes in the West Bank and Gaza, is being held responsible for encouraging the Zionist government to continue its crimes against the Palestinian people and its occupation of the Palestinian territories. He said that the permanent Security Council members are called on to act to defend Palestinian rights and end the Zionist occupation—which has existed for 23 years—as soon as possible. They are also called upon to prove that their enthusiasm for implementing Security Council resolutions is not confined to a certain part of the world or the Middle East.

PFLP Disappointed Over USSR-Israel Ties

JN0110134990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] under George Habash has voiced its surprise and disappointment concerning the resumption of consular relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The PFLP spokesman said that the resumption of these relations between the Soviet Union and Israel is a blow against the intifadah, because it rewards the Israeli enemy for its occupation of Palestinian territories.

Hawatimah Interviewed on Gulf, Israel Issues

JN0210110090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Oct 90 Second Edition p 11

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, by Fu'ad Husayn; place and date not given]

[Text] [Husayn] Following your meeting with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, how do you see future conditions in the Gulf; are they turning toward war or peace? And if they are turning toward war, how has Iraq prepared for confronting such a situation?

[Hawatimah] In our talks with President Saddam Husayn and his brothers in the Iraqi leadership, including Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, it was very clear that our common emphasis is on peace and the prevention of war. This emphasis, however, has collided with the stand taken by the United States, which is preparing its ground, air, and naval forces for war and aggression and forcing out new resolutions from the UN Security Council every day, thereby causing world tension and concern and exerting pressure on Iraq.

The Iraqi leadership has expressed its readiness for a balanced, comprehensive peace resolving both the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question within the framework of an expanded international conference, which should lead to a comprehensive political solution responding to the interests of all peoples in the region—the Gulf and the Middle East—and the interests of all nations in our region. This readiness is expressed in the Iraqi president's 12 August initiative which calls for applying international law to the Middle East and the Gulf. It is impermissible to separate issues. The United States is pushing to apply only the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis while ignoring those adopted over the past 23 years concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question. Washington and Tel Aviv have obstructed Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and all other UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, and 608, which were issued in November 1988 calling upon Israel to respect the fourth Geneva convention and to stop the daily killing of the intifadah people. We and the Iraqi leadership believe that the Gulf crisis has presented an exceptional golden opportunity to reach a balanced and comprehensive peace linking the future of oil with that of the Palestine question and redistributing wealth for the sake of integrated Arab development; instead of the present anomalous situation where the peoples of the thinly populated south live in luxury while the peoples of the north—Palestine, Jordan, and the Maghreb—live a life of starvation, poverty, and debt. Yet, it is the peoples of the north, especially those surrounding Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, who are bearing the whole burden of defending the entire Arab homeland. The peoples of the south are satiated with overconsumption and opulence, while our peoples shed rivers of blood in defense of all against the expansionist U.S.-Israeli onslaught. Now, all opportunities are open for lasting and comprehensive peace in the region—the Gulf and the Middle East. However, Washington refuses to link the two crises. It also rejects an expanded international peace conference. This is because the United States wants to monopolize the issue of our region. It also wants war and aggression so as to strike at Iraq's economic and military power, shake Jordan's valiant steadfastness, and try to crush the brave intifadah. They [the United States and Israel] want to complete what they started in 1967. Therefore, we should reorganize our affairs. We want a repetition of 1956 [reducing British and French influence in the Middle East]. We want the coming U.S. aggressive war to mark the beginning of the end of the U.S. empire and the shortening of Israel's long arm. It is obvious that Washington is against efforts to internationalize both crises and insists on internationalizing the Gulf crisis only.

This is what we and the Iraqi leadership reject. If we must solve the Gulf crisis in isolation from other crises, then the solution must be within the Arab framework, as we agreed in our discussions with our Iraqi brothers, guaranteeing the interests of Iraq and the other Gulf states and redistributing wealth between the Arab south and north. It is clear that Washington is working to hamper any Arab move toward a peaceful Arab solution. Therefore, we must now work for the balanced Arab political initiative put forward by the nine Arab countries that objected to the entry of U.S. and Atlantic troops into the Gulf and Peninsula and rejected the cover provided by the Cairo summit for these foreign troops. These nine Arab countries will then present this initiative to Arab public opinion and other Arab and world countries in the search for true Arab peace in the Gulf region.

We see that individual good offices are no longer enough, because Washington is frustrating them one after the other. There is now the need for an active Arab effort, or an effort by a number of these nine countries to develop a plan on which they agree and then present it to the Arabs and the rest of the world so we can open new horizons for establishing peace in the Gulf under the Arab umbrella. The condition placed by all Arab countries for this serious action is that foreign forces leave the Peninsula and the Gulf so that we can create a calm Arab atmosphere that allows discussion within the framework of a new Arab summit for reaching a comprehensive Arab solution in the Gulf. The need for this does not contradict the attempt of the five-way summit called for by Moroccan King Hassan II. This started as a tripartite summit, but could not include the participation of Yemen and Oman, as was King Hassan II's proposal, because Washington once again mined the way and hampered the tripartite summit's efforts. Now, action is required by a number of the nine Arab states to develop a new initiative with new weight because it will be issued by nine Arab countries, and not by a single country as is the case now. The Cairo group of 12 that approved the Cairo resolutions and provided cover for the foreign troops is taking a united stand under the ceiling of the Cairo summit resolutions, which we and the group of nine Arab countries rejected.

The Iraqi leadership realizes very well that Washington is hampering all this, but we must persist because we want peace and not war. At the same time, the Iraqi leadership does not take into account that the possibilities of war and aggression are great; therefore, it is preparing itself to absorb the first aggressive strikes and then continue fighting, since the blitzkriegs at which Washington and Tel Aviv have excelled have now died out forever in the Middle East. Iraq has eight years of war experience from the Iraq-Iran war which will allow it to remain steadfast in confronting the strike and continuing the fighting. The Arab people also have war experience, such as the Lebanese and Palestinian national resistance against the comprehensive Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982, which forced the occupation to withdraw from Beirut and Lebanese territories without any preconditions as a result of the persevering resistance. The Iraqi leadership has confidence in itself and its abilities to continue the fight and defense for a long period. It also knows that Israel will enter the war if the U.S. forces fail to achieve their goals with the first strikes. This will turn the whole Gulf region and the Middle East into a war zone and theater of operations. Israel will not be spared punishment by Iraqi weapons. The Iraqi leadership affirms that its response to any aggression will include the Gulf oil wells and Israel, which has been occupying the Palestinian lands, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon for 23 years, and continues to do so, and bears the responsibility for the tragedy of Palestine for over 42 years.

[Husayn] Through your talks with the Iraqi leadership, what is the minimum that this leadership can accept in a settlement of the current crisis?

[Hawatimah] The Iraqi leadership confirms that it is ready for a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the UN resolutions regarding the Palestine question and the Gulf. This leadership also confirms that it is ready to accept a settlement within an Arab context provided that foreign troops withdraw so the sword of terrorism cannot influence talks at the inter-Arab negotiating table. When an agreement on these principles is reached, each side can present its positions at the negotiating table. But before this, there can be no talk of details since the framework consisting of the principles that should be agreed upon would be missing.

[Husayn] Is there any chance of holding the five-way Arab summit soon? Or have the chances for holding it vanished?

[Hawatimah] According to our information, the tripartite summit suspended its work pending Arab and international efforts to be conducted by King Hassan II, considering that he is the one who addressed the invitations to this summit. This was supposed to have been completed within days. Now, more than one week has elapsed. It seems to me that Washington has interfered once again and obstructed these efforts. Washington is bent on rejecting all Arab moves and rallying the support of world states for its solutions under the international solution slogan. By so doing, Washington is placing the entire world on the brink of a conflagration. That is because Washington insists on Iraqi acceptance of its preconditions—something that would result in a guaranteed political defeat for Iraq. The Iraqi leadership cannot accept these terms. The only alternative would then be exactly what Washington wants; that is, war and aggression, because Washington has not come to the [Arabian] Peninsula and Gulf only to control the oil fields. Washington has also come to strike at Iraq's resurgence so as to ensure its hegemony over the Gulf for many long years to come without having to keep forces there. Our information states—and this has been confirmed to us by the brothers within the Iraqi leadership—that Washington was preparing to land troops in the Peninsula and Gulf before 2 August. This information also states that dates for the arrival of these troops were fixed more than once. The 6th of August was the last date fixed for arrival of these troops.

But the Iraqi leadership prevented Washington from doing this because it is well aware that Washington does not only want to secure the flow of oil to U.S., European, and Japanese markets. The Iraqi leaders know that Washington also seeks to impose its hegemony on the Gulf and the Middle East for the next 10 years. It does not want the emergence of any factors within the Arab states pressing for a reappraisal of the role of oil and for its exploitation to further the Palestine question and the issue of Arab development, which should run parallel to efforts to resolve this question. Hence, the Iraqi leadership is strongly convinced that Washington has not dispatched troops to the region to restore the former Kuwaiti Government, but to strike at Iraq. That is why the United States is obstructing all attempts at peaceful solutions in order to prepare for aggression.

[Husayn] Does this mean that attempts at peaceful solutions to the Gulf crisis have reached a dead end?

[Hawatimah] They are approaching a dead end. We must exploit the small margin that we still have during the next few days and weeks, provided we start now. That is why we stressed the need for an active Arab initiative and also for a new international initiative that distances itself from the U.S. gimmick. We still have real margin for hope. But we must expedite efforts to rally the support of the world.

[Husayn] If the door is completely slammed in the face of peaceful solutions, when do you expect the aggression to take place?

[Hawatimah] The Americans, in addition to information they leak, say that the United States will complete its preparations before the end of October. Therefore, the war and the aggression will become a possibility any moment after this date, because preparations will be complete and the weather will be more suitable, according to the Americans.

[Husayn] If the aggression takes place, where do you expect it to be carried out?

[Hawatimah] The entire Gulf region, Iraq, and even Jerusalem, because Washington will transform Iraq and the entire Gulf region into a battlefield and Israel will open a second front against Iraq. Thus, Jordanian territory will be threatened. This calls for prior Iraqi, Jordanian, and Palestinian steps to tackle this broad battlefield. We also believe the Arab masses will not stand idly by in the face of the aggression. Many upheavals will occur in the Arab countries as a contribution to repulsing the aggression. Arab trade unions can, from now, start to boycott U.S. aircraft and vessels, as they did in 1956 with British and French vessels and planes. A step of this kind is equal to 20 military divisions in the battlefield. This is because, not only will the passage of commercial vessels and planes be obstructed, but also that of war vessels and fighter planes that pass through or overfly Mediterranean ports, the Suez Canal,and the Red Sea.

[Husayn] In which areas will these upheavals take place?

[Hawatimah] We believe that the entire region will experience such upheavals because Washington targets all Arab countries in terms of destruction and colonialist hegemony, against which three generations of Arabs have struggled. These generations have struggled for salvation from colonialism represented by foreign forces and foreign bases and pacts.

[Husayn] It is being reported that there is a conspiracy to establish a substitute PLO leadership. How serious do you think these attempts are?

[Hawatimah] Such talk cannot produce any results now. All attempts to establish substitutes for the PLO have failed. The PLO is not a group of persons and leaders. It is a broad coalition comprising all the revolution factions that are active among the ranks of our people in the occupied territories and in the diaspora, in addition to including all the independent political, literary, and spiritual figures. The idea of replacing the PLO was no longer valid after all the resistance factions joined the PLO in 1968. There are no serious attempts in this direction at present. There are individual moves that are being sponsored by the Camp David government in Egypt and by Saudi Arabia. We are confident that these moves will fail, no matter how intensive the Egyptian media campaign, or its lies, and irrespective of the political and material pressures Saudi Arabia is bringing to bear on our people in the [Arabian] Peninsula and the Gulf.

Officials Say U.S. Preventing Arab Solution

AU0110134890 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 29-30 Sep 90 p 8

[Report by Heiko Flottau: "United States Preventing Arab Solution in Gulf"]

[Text] Amman—According to a high-ranking PLO member in Amman, the U.S. intervention in the Gulf prevented an "Arab" solution of the conflict. "They have come to frustrate an Arab solution. The foreign troops created a very delicate situation in the region," 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya [member of the PLO Executive Committee] stated in an interview with SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG. In the beginning it was possible to negotiate the problem within an Arab framework, he said. The PLO continues to pursue the objective of settling the conflict within the Arab League. "We are against the presence of foreign troops in the region" because it does not contribute to bringing peace to the region, al-Yahya said.

At the same time it has become known in Amman that the PLO is striving to bring about a session of the UN World Security Council where all Middle East problems are to be discussed. According to Yasir Adib 'Abd Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO has approached the Soviet Union with this proposal. The Soviet Union's attitude toward this suggestion is not negative, Rabbuh stated in Amman after his return from Moscow.

According to 'Abd Rabbuh, the United States pursues two objectives in the Gulf: securing the American military presence for a long period, and the destruction of Iraq's military potential. With its concept of creating new security structures in the Gulf after Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the United States is actually pursuing the objective of destroying Iraq's military power.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG that it is PLO policy to enforce all UN resolutions that deal with Palestine. This also applies to Resolution 242 of 1967, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Palestinians now have to witness that the decision to cause Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait was enforced within a few days, while it has not been possible to implement Resolutions 181 and 242 for decades. The reproach that is frequently directed at the PLO, that is, that it represents "radical positions" in unjustified, al-Yahya said. The PLO demands that international law also be applied to the Palestinians' advantage.

Palestinian journalist Rami Khury told SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG that the Gulf crisis all of a sudden showed the "frustrations" that three generations of Palestinians felt because of "Western interventions" in the Middle East. The Palestinians condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait but they now see a chance to place their cause on the agenda again. "We are on the side of Iraq against the West; but we are not on the side of Iraq against Kuwait," Khury said.

Intifadah Leadership Condemns 'All Occupations'

NC0110173590 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 1 (AFP)—The leaders of the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories on Monday [1 October] implicitly rejected the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait while denouncing "the rotten regimes" currently in place in Cairo and Damascus.

The Unified Leadership of the Palestinian uprising said in a communique received here that "all people have a right to independence and self-determination" and stressed its opposition to "all occupations, whatever their motives".

But the underground leadership also condemned Egypt and Syria, which have deployed forces in Saudi Arabia alongside those of Morocco, Pakistan, Britain, France and the United States to help defend the kingdom against Iraq.

"At a time when the intifadah (Arabic for uprising) is entering its 35th month, colonialist powers are again conspiring to contain Arab renewal and to eliminate it with the help of rotten regimes in Damascus and Cairo," the statement said.

The communique denounced the United Nations Security Council "for allowing itself to be led by the United States in its unjust resolutions against Iraq and for having refused to link the Gulf crisis to that of Palestine."

Shortly after its August 2 invasion of Kuwait Iraq proposed a comprehensive settlement that would also stipulate an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory.

The suggestion was rejected by the West and the Security Council proceeded to impose a sweeping land, sea and air blockade against Iraq.

Egypt

Mubarak on 'Secret' Saddam Contacts With Israel

NC0110203390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Paris, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that secret contacts are taking place between Israel and Saddam Husayn. He points out that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait gives the Israelis an excuse to refuse to withdraw from Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza.

In an interview to be broadcast by the "A Pause With a Picture" program over French Television's Channel Five at 2315 tonight, President Mubarak says that Saddam Husayn has made no effort to solve the Palestinian problem and that the arguments he uses to justify the Iraqi presence in Kuwait enable the Israelis to say that they will not withdraw from Lebanon.

President Mubarak says: We all know that he has secret contacts with Israel. President Mubarak, however, does not give any other details. President Mubarak stresses that even if Israel and Syria were to withdraw from Lebanon, Iraq will not withdraw from Kuwait because Saddam Husayn will be in danger if he withdraws from Kuwait, particularly after he has given everything back to Iran. His people will start asking questions.

In the television interview, President Mubarak expresses his conviction that Israel will not attack Iraq without a clear reason.

The president voices his agreement in principle with the proposals for resolving the Gulf dispute which French President Francois Mitterrand outlined at the United Nations last week. He points out that a matter that is not clear in the French proposals is connected with the Kuwaiti people's democratic expression of their options and choices.

President Mubarak says that the Kuwaiti people do not want to see anybody replacing their legitimate government. The president expresses his hope that President Mitterrand's interpretation does not differ from his own interpretation.

LE FIGARO Interviews Mubarak on Crisis

NC0110134890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Paris, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has warned against the danger of war if the international embargo imposed against Iraq fails.

In an interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO published today, President Mubarak pointed out that there are two ways and one objective: that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. But if the diplomatic solution reaches a dead end, other means must be sought, he added. President Mubarak said: If the embargo works, the Iraqi president will be forced to respond or else the situation will resolve itself militarily.

President Mubarak told LE FIGARO that Iraq must start the withdrawal from Kuwait. If Baghdad is to be offered concessions later on, these concessions must come from the legitimate government of the State of Kuwait.

Asked about his opinion regarding the initiative proposed by French President Francois Mitterrand before the UN General Assembly to resolve the crisis diplomatically, President Mubarak said Egypt supports any diplomatic solution that could ensure the withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government. He noted that while he gives 100 percent support to efforts to find a diplomatic solution, he notes that the points proposed by President Mitterrand referred to the need for the Kuwaiti people to express their views democratically. He added, however, that we must urgently emphasize the need for the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait for a basic reason, namely, that after the invasion no Kuwaiti will accept the place of Kuwait's Amir Jabir al-Sabah or the heir apparent.

President Mubarak rejected the idea that the amir of Kuwait give up his throne as a measure to facilitate finding a political solution to the crisis. He noted that accepting such measure means that any country in the Gulf could invade a neighboring country to change its head of state, which simply means interference in the domestic affairs of another country. President Mubarak demanded that this principle be firmly adhered to.

Asked if he believes there is a contradiction between President Mitterrand's address to the UN and his decision to send troops to the Gulf, President Mubarak said: Not at all. I understand the two parts of President Mitterrand's policy. If the diplomatic efforts fail we will have to be firm. There are two ways and one objective, which is that Iraq must pull out of Kuwait. Should the diplomatic solution reach a dead end, we will have to opt for other means.

Regarding the possibility of making concessions, President Mubarak said it is essential not to give Saddam anything before the withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government. If concessions are to be offered to Baghad later on, they must come through negotiations between the Iraqi Government and Kuwait's legitimate government, but it it must not give Saddam Husayn anything beforehand, he added.

Asked if Egypt does in fact stand in the camp of "winners" or whether Saddam Husayn has a chance to emerge as a winner from this conflict, President Mubarak explained that the issue is not one of "winner" or "loser," but concerns the defense of a principle. The Kuwaiti people have the right to live in peace and to govern themselves by themselves.

Replying to a question about the U.S. stand, particularly about the future and the possibility that Saddam Husayn would stir up other problems and the need to kill him as being the only solution, President Mubarak said: I do not interfere in the internal affairs of the presidents of other countries because this is inappropriate. I am against Saddam, but killing him will not solve the Iraqi's problems. The Iraqi people alone must decide this question, whether to keep this president or not. It is not our business to make this decision. At any rate, I am against the liquidation of any person, particularly when the matter concerns the president of a state.

President Mubarak added that if President Saddam Husayn comes to his senses and decides to evacuate Kuwait, he will then become a hero to his people because his withdrawal from Kuwait would save the lives of a great number of Iraqis.

Regarding Arab aid to Egypt in the economic field, President Mubarak said that Egypt has lost a lot of money. He added: Egyptians who worked in Kuwait used to remit $2 billion a year to Egypt, but today not a single cent is received from Kuwait. In addition to this, jobs, houses, and schools must be found for all the Egyptian returnees. Income from tourism and the Suez Canal revenue has also dropped. He expressed his belief that the Americans, the Europeans, and the Arab brothers must extend help to Egypt.

President Mubarak noted that President Mitterrand was the first to speak about writing off parts of the Egyptian debts. He also expressed his belief that the present freeze on Egypt's military debts and referring of the question of writing them off to one of the Congress committees could be explained by a parliamentary filibuster, noting that legislative elections will be held in the United States in November and Congress members are very much concerned before the electors with anything that concerns taxes or the budget expenditure.

Replying to a question about whether Saddam Husayn is the hero of the Arab masses, President Mubarak asked: Where are the Arab masses? The majority of the Arab masses are in Egypt. My country is the largest one in the region with its population of 55 million. It is also the largest asset for Arab public opinion. Egyptians are opposed to the invasion of Kuwait, where—as well as in Iraq—they have brothers and sisters working about whom no news has been received since the invasion, and they know that many of their citizens were killed by the Iraqi army; therefore, they are against Saddam.

Regarding the stands of Palestinians and the peoples of the Arab Maghreb, President Mubarak said: Not all the Palestinians support Saddam. They are in a difficult position because the PLO command headquarters is in Baghdad, hence it is difficult for them to oppose Saddam. But today they are almost silent and we barely hear them. I do not believe they are really convinced Kuwait's invasion was a good thing. As for the Arab Maghreb, it is geographically distant from the problem. Whatever the people there say about Iraq and Kuwait, I do not hear them and I do not know what they say in Tunis or Algiers. The crux of the problem is here.

On whether Saddam Husayn is mad, President Mubarak said: I do not know if he is mad or not. At any rate, he committed a terrible mistake and grossly miscalculated the extent of the Arab and world reaction to Kuwait's invasion. He committed the same mistake when he launched the war against Iran. The result was eight years of fighting and hundreds of thousands killed in vain because he gave everything he gained back to Iran.

As to why a president of a state would commit such mistakes, President Mubarak said: The reason is that there is not one person with the courage to criticize Saddam Husayn's ideas and tell him to his face that there are better solutions. He believed that the invasion of Kuwait would only cause verbal protests and then he could calmly attack the oil wells in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and, after swallowing them, attack the oil wells of the United Arab Emirates.

President Mubarak stressed that the main problem is that Iraq is not a free country. Here anyone can criticize me, but in Iraq anything Saddam says is sacrosanct, like the Koran.

Asked about the possibility that Saddam might resort to intimidating Egypt and the possibility of the deployment of Iraqi missiles in Sudan, President Mubarak said: There are no Iraqi missiles in Sudan and the latter would not dare do this. But Western media exaggerate when they describe the Iraqi threat and depict Iraq as a great military power. I myself do not believe a single word of this.

Regarding the Soviet Union and its stand, President Mubarak said: The Soviet Union has internal problems but it still has a role in the Middle East. This role has simply changed and the Americans and the Soviets are standing side by side today.

Regarding the Middle East map, the possibility of changing it, and the future of Jordan's King Husayn, President Mubarak said: King Husayn is a friend and a brother. Jordan's proximity to Iraq poses a terrible problem to it. It is finding itself now in an extremely difficult financial situation, but King Husayn is Jordan's monarch and we are opposed to his overthrow. He stressed that King Husayn erred in his calculations, but said he could not say King Husayn is a traitor.

As to Yasir 'Arafat and his future, President Mubarak said: Yasir 'Arafat's position is extremely difficult. The PLO command headquarters are in Baghdad, and so 'Arafat cannot declare that Iraq is wrong. If he says that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is illegal, then he will face many problems. I pity Yasir 'Arafat.

Replying to a question on whether the Iraqis can liquidate Yasir 'Arafat, President Mubarak said: Yes. He added that they can liquidate him either physically or in some other way. He stressed that 'Arafat is in a very difficult position. He added that 'Arafat is not the prisoner of the Iraqis but his command headquarters is now in Baghdad, and if he says anything to the contrary he might be toppled.

Asked whether 'Arafat could lose his position as PLO chairman, President Mubarak said: There are rumors. But I believe that he is still the most reasonable official despite all that he has done. He stressed that in his view 'Arafat remains the preferred leader of the PLO. He added: We know him well and appreciate his current difficulties.

On the system of government in the Gulf oil countries, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak said: These countries have their own political system. They apply the Islamic shari'a [law]. I do not believe that the French or U.S. systems are suitable for them. However, the regrettable events in Kuwait have proven that this part of the world needs the establishment of a joint security system.

On the Arab-Israeli problem and the possibility that the United States will pressure Israel to hold negotiations on a settlement to the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak expressed the hope that the United States will work zealously for a resolution of the Palestinian problem. He also expressed the hope that the Kuwaiti issue will make the Americans more sensitive toward the Palestinian issue. In any case, Egypt is prepared to work toward this end.

On Saddam Husayn's linking the Kuwaiti conflict to the Arab-Israel conflict, President Mubarak asked whether Saddam Husayn had occupied Kuwait to liberate the occupied Arab territories. He added that Saddam Husayn would not have gone to Kuwait if there had been no oil there. Saddam linked the two conflicts only because he hoped to gain the support of the Arab masses. President Mubarak noted that the Iraqi president is incapable of settling the Israeli-Arab problem. President Mubarak said that if Saddam wanted to solve this problem, he should have liberated Jerusalem instead of invading Kuwait.

On the attitude of the Arabs in the event the Americans fight the Iraqis, President Mubarak said that if the Americans had launched the war to occupy Kuwait, all the Arabs would have stood against them, but if the Americans fight to liberate Kuwait, all Arabs will applaud them.

On the possibility that Saddam Husayn might invade Jordan to involve Israel in the conflict, President Mubarak said that Saddam would then commit another suicidal action, because the Israelis will never allow him to occupy Jordan.

Answering a question on the possibility of Saddam Husayn's firing a rocket at Tel Aviv, President Mubarak said: Ask the Israelis if Saddam Husayn in fact possesses a rocket capable of hitting Tel Aviv. I do not believe so. All this talk about his extraordinary arsenal is for the sake of propaganda. You in the West have made a giant of Saddam.

Mubarak Address at Prophet's Birthday Ceremony

NC0110222590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak delivered a speech this evening at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad. He said that this anniversary should remind us of the lofty and immortal Islamic values. We must follow these values and the relationships and policies that they dictate, which promote the good of the nation and chart a course that will take the Arabs and Muslims to the desired goal. He said that the values of Muhammad are practical principles that were sown and yielded fruit in the lives of the Arabs and other peoples. They also contributed to building the Islamic state and civilization, a civilization which was one of the greatest. Mubarak said that we must restore the lofty Islamic pillars that the Prophet Muhammad consecrated so that we may right our wrongs and rectify our course.

Speaking about the profound impact the advent of Islam had on the lives of Arabs, who had been divided into disputing factions and tribes, he said Islam called for accord and unity and for shunning division, and eliminated backward tribalism. Islam called for respect of the freedom of others and banned shedding Muslim blood, stealing money, and violating honor. He said that Islam called for equality among people and for cooperation and solidarity when an issue concerns the peace of the community. Islam called for confronting an oppressor and restoring rights to the wronged, and exhorted Muslims not to be passive in confronting aggressors who threaten the secuity and lives of others. Islam also called for truthfulness, honesty, honoring promises, keeping one's word, and extending help to the conquered and oppressed.

President Mubarak said that Prophet Muhammad struggled for 23 years to lay the foundations of this great religion and the lofty principles that changed the lives of Arabs. They united after divisions, established a lofty state, and became capable of bearing the message of Islam to other peoples as guides and preachers, and not as unjust oppressors. The Muslims waged their wars for right, for freedom, and for upholding sublime values. They were not aggressors. With them, justice triumphed and peace prevailed.

Speaking about the ordeal to which the Islamic world is being subjected, an ordeal that has brought disunity and disarray in place of accord and harmony, he said that we are now faced with the most acute need to follow the Prophet Muhammad's teachings so as to avert the devastation into which we are being dragged. He said that Islam is a creed that must be reflected in deeds and is a faith which must be translated into action.

President Mubarak said that it is regrettable that we give up the values that others adopt. It is regrettable that some people emerge from among us who are trying to take us back to hateful pre-Islamic values. Islam forbids aggression and fomenting sedition, and prohibits boasting about wrongdoing and greed. President Mubarak wondered why certain people are seeking to divide the nation and bury the reformers' achievements. He questioned why crises are being imposed on us and sedition fomented while we have the most dire need for peace and prosperity. He said that it is surprising that those who are seeking to take us back to the pre-Islamic way of life are raising Islamic slogans. He said that we has been in the process of correcting our course, regaining our lost territory, and making up for lost time to cope with progress, and the world began to support us. Then an event occurred. We ask God to protect our nation from the evils of that event and guide every leader vis-a-vis what has happened and return him to the right course, end the nation's ordeal, and safeguard its unity so as to emerge from this crisis without shedding blood. God is the best arbiter of affairs. For verily God is the guide for those who believe, in the straight path. [Koranic verse]

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Martelli Arrives

NC0110175390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1647 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Italian Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt. Upon his arrival, he stressed that his country is eager to offer economic, food, and medical aid to Egypt as quickly as possible to compensate it for losses sustained as a result of the Gulf crisis, which also caused economic and financial difficulties for Jordan and Turkey. He noted that during his talks with Egyptian officials he will discuss what forms of aid Egypt requires most urgently so that Italy can begin sending it. He praised continued Egyptian-Italian cooperation and coordination. Martelli was received on arrival by Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade.

President Receives Greek Minister Theodhorakis

NC0110170990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Excerpt] President Mubarak today received Mikis Theodhorakis, Greek minister without portfolio. Culture Minister Faruq Husni also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, the Greek minister said that President Mubarak explained all developments of the Gulf crisis. Theodhorakis praised President Mubarak's leading and historic role during this crisis and his defense from the outset of the principle of independence, despite the difficulty of such a stand given the situation in the Arab world. He said that whatever the differences and disputes between peoples or countries, the only solution to differences is discussion and negotiations. He said that Greece completely rules out military force in settling disputes. He pointed out that President Mubarak stressed that he is ready to help bring the views of the Greek and Turkish peoples closer to solving the Cypriot problem. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Official Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC0110154090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received a Sudanese delegation headed by Salah-al-Din Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], currently visiting Cairo.

After the meeting, Karrar said that anything that happens in Egypt or Sudan concerns both countries and so we must exchange views and listen to President Mubarak and our dear brothers in Egypt.

Asked about the Sudanese Government's position on the Gulf crisis, Karrar said that its position has been unchanged from the outset. It does not support the invasion and occupation of Kuwait, and instead supports Kuwait's sovereignty and legitimacy. He said that within this framework the Sudanese Government expressed some reservations, on the understanding that doing so would eventually serve this end. He noted that the reason for the failure to condemn [the invasion] was essentially so that the door would be left open for efforts to have Iraq leave Kuwait. He said that Sudan supports Kuwaiti legitimacy and that the Sudanese leader declared this in his speech before the Arab summit. Sudan, he said, emphasized its compliance with all Arab summit resolutions and all UN resolutions, including the embargo.

Asked about RCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's mediation efforts, Karrar said that the mediation efforts are continuing in the hope of achieving progress. He noted that Sudan's failure to condemn it is because it took place within an international framework, and we comply with this condemnation within this framework. [sentence as received] However, within the Arab family, we wanted to leave the door open to movement and to maintaining a dialogue with Iraq, because if we condemned it we could not maintain the dialogue.

In response to a question on the presence of Iraqi missiles in Sudan, Karrar said that there are no missiles. He said this can be verified by available modern technology. He said that Sudan has never been the source of a threat to Egypt.

On the Sudanese Government's statement that it will strike with an iron fist any attempt to stage a military coup in Sudan and whether this means that there is a state of tension and instability in Sudan, Karrar said that this statement did not emerge in a vacuum but was instead the result of statements by certain elements that think they are capable of doing something in Sudan. He pointed out that the security situation in Sudan is reassuring, the internal situation excellent, and the domestic front cohesive. He noted that there is no unrest within the Sudanese Armed Forces.

'Abd-al-Majid Receives Palestinian Delegation

NC0110145790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with a Palestinian delegation led by PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani. Also attending the meeting were Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal and Fatah representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah. Egyptian-Palestinian relations were discussed during the meeting.

Minister on Treatment of Nationals in Kuwait

PM0110150690 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Alim: "Inhuman Iraqi Measures To Force Egyptians To Leave"]

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-WAFD, Manpower and Training Minister 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq has emphasized that the Iraqi authorities have taken repressive measures to force Egyptians to leave Kuwait and replace them with Iraqis. The aim is to create social problem in Egypt with those workers' return. The minister also emphasized that these inhuman measures went as far as murder, with the aim of striking terror and alarm into the hearts of Egyptians in Kuwait and Iraq in order to force them to return to Egypt. 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq pointed out that the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad conveys the victims' bodies to Egypt following notification from the Iraqi authorities or the victims' Egyptian colleagues. The manpower minister denied that the bodies of Egyptian victims have been buried in Iraq. He said that the Egyptian Embassy is following the matter very closely. 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq stressed that the International Labor Office has received a complaint from the Egyptian Government about the ugly measures taken by the Iraqi authorities against Egyptians in Iraq and Kuwait. The complaint stressed the need to safeguard those workers' rights in both countries. The office is expected to discuss Egypt's complaint at its first meeting in November.

Columnist Urges Payment of Country's 'Bill'

JN0110161290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Sep 90 p 9

["A Viewpoint" column by Usamah Ghayth: "Egyptian Losses"]

[Text] Talk of interests knows only one language—the language of accurate assessment of "profit and loss." This may not only be limited to direct and indirect material considerations, but can also include moral aspects, which—at critical and sensitive junctures—can exceed in value all the material ones.

The falsities of dignity, magnanimity, and generosity have nothing whatsoever to do with such talk because they are not related to it. In the final analysis, it is the talk of accounts that must be balanced to ensure that interests will continue and remain in harmony. Otherwise, contradictions, disputes, and controversies will impose themselves on the course of events.

The position on the Gulf events of the United States, in its capacity as the superpower of the 1990's, demonstrates the consideration of interests on the part of the powerful. Senior officials, headed by President Bush, have not had to feel embarrassed; nor have Congressmen been compelled to cover their speeches with fabricated shyness. They plainly and decisively stated that the United States will not pay the expenses of its troops in the Gulf. They also said the Gulf states must pay the majority of the expenses, and that other industrialized nations have to pay what they can.

Thus, the talk about "Egyptian losses" in their "material and moral" aspects is broad talk that needs accurate calculations as far as counting the costs and repaying them are concerned. This is because the manner in which the accounts are calculated and repaid are connected "in words and action" with Egyptian dignity, magnanimity, and generosity. One can in no way be allowed to underestimate these things because the interests of all effective parties must have a principal objective: that is, to remove the fuse of sensitivities buried in the heart of every Egyptian man and woman. That fuse is based on a real foundation, at head the of which is the blood of martyrs who fell in constant wars to defend Arab rights. The Egyptian man had to pay the cost of those wars with his blood, food, and sweat.

The message about Egyptian losses is not only addressed to the brothers but also to the whole world, at the head of which is the United States. That message is based on the accurate consideration of the expenses it has endured, from the first day until the bill is paid in full, according to its evaluations and forecasts, without any deletion or amendment. This reveals the international dimensions of the accounts that are based on "immediate payment," since this is the only method acceptable for settling accounts based on interests which do not believe in postponed settlements or in statements such as "when things get better."

Very simply, the world and the United States have an interest in securing a regular flow of oil. The United States also shares Egypt's interest in the need for stability and tranquillity in the region. Egypt has paid its full share of the bill. Now, the others must pay their immediate bills and defuse the tension resulting from the old bills due Egypt, so that the popular satisfaction with and approval of giving backing and support to the brothers and friends can continue in light of Egyptian democracy. This is because Egyptians have paid out everything they have in their pockets and in the pockets of their future generations, for subsidies in the past.

EC To Send Emergency Supplies of Foodstuffs

NC0110202190 Cairo MENA in English 1950 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, October 1 (MENA)—The European Community (EC) decided to give Egypt supplies of emergency foodstuffs, including 34,000 tons of cereals, 1400 tons of powder milk, 1440 tons of edible oil, 840 tons of ghee and other items, worth around 1.2 million European monetary units plus the usual food aid, said the accredited EC mission to Egypt.

Libya

Further on Al-Qadhdhafi Loyalty Day Speech

LD0110183790 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1902 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Loyalty Day celebrations in Surt—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Brothers, I welcome our guests who are here with us this evening representing pan-Arab and progressive forces in the Arab homeland, to hold a dialogue and honor us with their meeting here. We greet the brother representatives of fraternal and friendly foreign countries who came all the way here from Tripoli. I greet you, brothers, who have been honored on the occasion of the 20th anniversary and who are being honored yet again today on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of Loyalty Day, on 30 September. [passage omitted]

This year's Loyalty Day coincides with the Prophet's birthday anniversary, as well as the anniversary of his death. Historical sources have confirmed that the Prophet was born and died on the same day. The anniversary of his birthday and his death are the same.

An initiative which demonstrates our civilized consciousness and originality is the fact that it was we and only we who thought of replacing the Hegira year by the year of the anniversary of the Prophet's death, which has the greatest significance and which has yet to be discovered by Muslims throughout the world. [passage omitted]

With your permission, on the occasion of the Prophet's birthday which coincides with Loyalty Day, 30 September this year, I would like to dwell a little bit more on this birthday. There is no doubt about the sanctity of this anniversary. I have, however, noticed that there is a great number of Islamic rulers who will make addresses today, paying respect to the festivities marking the Prophet's holy birthday. We do not object to any Muslim's marking or paying respect to this anniversary. Our objection, however, and this is our right, is to mix religion with economic, agricultural, industrial, labor, institutional, and training affairs. I consider it to be demagoguery and charlatanism to mix political positions and religious belief. The greatest sabotage to religion is to mix it with politics, particularly in this era today.

However, ignorant and shallow-minded people believe this is to (?further) religion. This is not true. They only think so because they are shallow-minded and ignorant.

If only we were all in agreement on the same principle for all Muslims. Responsible people must be religiously devout; responsible people must be pious and godly so as to be God-fearing when making decisions. First, we are not supposed to have rulers and subjects; we have instead people's authority. The people govern themselves without a ruler.

We should not abandon the idea of people's republics for the sake of some prayers, as is being propagated today, such as: O God, please make our most pious our ruler; please make him see wrong as wrong, and right as right. Suppose he does not heed our prayers; it will mean that tyrants will oppress us. It seems, indeed, that a positive response to such prayers has been minimal so far, given the number of tyrants who have oppressed the people.

People's fates should not be left to propaganda from rostrums. People should be allowed to decide their own fate. And this is God's will. God's caliph on earth is not a ruler. Every man is a caliph; every human being is a caliph; all citizens are caliphs.

"I am setting on the earth a caliph." [Koranic verse] He did not say a ruler; he said a caliph. Every human being is God's caliph on earth. However, they have altered it to mean caliph-ruler, and the rest of mankind is merely a herd of cattle. They are not also God's caliphs. He never talked at all about rulers, presidents of republics, kingdoms, amirs, or anything like this. Those were not mentioned at all in God's book. God talked in general about human beings, trying to guide them to righteousness before invoking his reward or punishment on the day of the final judgement. [passage omitted] A prime minister cannot rule in the name of God. A prime minister can be criticized; he can be toppled and demonstrations can be organized against him. He can be tried. If he wears a religious robe and becomes a religious ruler, how then can we try him? The president of any country is a human being; he becomes president through the ballot box or some other means. If he rules in the name of God, he will be able to cut off heads in the name of God. Heads will roll for him; heads will be his to cut off because he rules in the name of God. He deals with matters which have nothing to do with God. He deals with roads, sewage, public works, supplies, politics, and diplomacy; matters which can be right and can be wrong, can be criticized, can be rejected, and can be changed. Their program can be altered or rejected. How then, do we allow someone to carry out a program through a religious man.

Here lies the danger of people's ruling in the name of God, that is, religious men. It is wrong that rulers should govern in the name of God. Religion is education. We welcome anyone who teaches us our religion. And we reject anyone who rules us in the name of religion. The latest farce which can be found in all this is the fact that our necks were cut in the name of religion by a Turkish ruler who does not even know one word of Arabic, and he cannot read the Koran. He only performs the prayers for demagoguery and chalatanry; he performs them as an act of courtesy. [passage omitted]

There should be no caliph after the Prophet's death. All systems of government following the Prophet's death were civilian ones. They were like presidents of republics. 'Umar Bin al-Khattab [the second caliph], with all our respect for him, was never a caliph according to all the evidence. He was called the amir of the faithful, namely, the president of the republic of the faithful, their ruler, their king, or their amir. He was called the amir of the faithful. He borrowed the word amir from the Persians or the Byzantines. I think he borrowed it from Persia. He was not called caliph; he was called amir of the faithful; the noun amir was derived from the verb 'amara, which means: he who can issue orders, he who has the authority to perform legislative and executive duties. [passage omitted]

Well, the Saudi monarch has invited in the Americans. The Muslim people are against such a decision. How can they stand against it when he is the custodian of the two holy mosques, God's messenger's caliph, and rules you in the name of God? This cannot be allowed. When we said you should not link Mecca and Medina to politics they said: no, this is wrong. So who is right today? Saudi Arabia is a sovereign state. It was afraid to be attacked, so it invited in Christians and Jews. There is no doubt about this. It is known throughout the world that the U.S. forces are composed of Christians and Jews. Mecca is part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Therefore, Mecca is under the protection of Christians and Jews.

I have no quarrel with King Fahd. He came to me and told me the story. I asked him: How is it that you are doing this? He said: I am afraid so I am calling upon the devil for help. You said it yourself. You said: I would make my country communist to fight America. Iraq is much stronger than his country. He said Iraq is stronger than we are; I am afraid, so I will call upon the devil for help. You said yourself that you will ally yourself with the devil—this was said, to me anyway. He said: You repeated it yourself; you said that you will ally yourself with the devil to defend your country. He said: I am allying myself with the devil. There is no difference between us, despite the propaganda campaign to the contrary. We have repeated such assertions and will repeat them whenever we meet with King Fahd or our brothers in Saudi Arabia.

To link politics to religion, however, is a very serious matter. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a state; it was afraid of another country so it called for the help of a third friendly country. It is very normal as far as international law and politics are concerned. Saudi Arabia is not the first or the last country to enlist the help of foreign troops to defend itself. There are French forces in Chad, Senegal, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Togo, and the Ivory Coast. All these neighboring African countries have French troops to help them. U.S. forces are in Turkey, the Philippines, Greece, Germany, and Italy. Soviet forces are in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Saudi Arabia is not the first country to enlist the help of foreign forces, and will not be the last. However, putting the holy places under the control of a given political regime will make them follow the development of such a political regime and its events.

It is illogical and unacceptable that Mecca should be protected by Christians or Jews, or the Americans, or the French, and so on. It is not a political matter that Saudi Arabia should seek help from another country. My position regarding this issue is clear. Saudi Arabia is an independent state and can seek the help of another state. This is the responsibility of the Arab people in the Arab Peninsula. The people there may agree with the rulers to seek the help of foreign forces rather than face Iraq. That is their business. However, the matter arises regarding when religious sites and the ruling regime are linked to politics; this engenders a distortion of that religion. Mecca has been desecrated. There is nobody who would like to go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage or the minor pilgramage at all. It is impossible. We just cannot perform our pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage as long as U.S., French, Danish, and Canadian forces are present there.

We should consider this as a religious edict pronounced by a Muslim, and not by a ruler or a politician or a revolutionary. This is an religious edict for all Muslims pronounced on this very day. It is impossible, illogical, and unacceptable that our God would blame us if we refuse to perform pilgrimage and minor pilgrimage under the spears of the United States.

This does not mean that I am against Saudi Arabia's seeking help from foreign forces. That is a matter for Saudi rulers and for the Arab people there. They could be right or could be forced to have taken the measures that they did. Even if yourselves were attacked by a stronger enemy, you might ask me to find any forces to defend you. It would, however, have been better if the United States, despised as it may be by us, had sought the services of the Arab League, the Islamic states, the Islamic Conference Organization and their forces. This would have been better. But necessity made the Saudis face the fact that they were facing tanks against them; there was no force that would repel the Iraqis except the West, the United States and its friends. They were worried about oil, and these forces were ready to come to the area immediately. This is another issue.

As a result of this, however, Mecca has come under U.S. protection for the time being. It is wrong to link Mecca with a political regime. When Abu Dhabi brought U.S. and other forces to the area, people did not view this in a religious context. They did not say that as Muslims we do not accept this measure. They probably wondered why Abu Dhabi brought in foreign forces and why it became protected by them. They might have said that Abu Dhabi was right. But when the U.S. forces descended on Saudi Arabia, the whole Islamic nation rose in uproar. Not because they looked at the matter in a political and military context and that there was a country about to attack Saudi Arabia and it was afraid of an attack, therefore it sought help from friendly forces. This is all normal. Muslims perceived the whole issue as follows: Why is Mecca protected by U.S. forces? This begs the following question: Why link Mecca to a political regime? Mecca and Medina should be separate from any political regime. Political regimes are independent. They are free to side with the West and East, enter into political alliances. These factors exist the world over, and everybody is seeking their own interests. I do not dispute the Saudi decision to seek help from foreign states. This matter concerns it alone.

The problem is the linking of Mecca with a political regime. Not necessarily Saudi Arabia. Let us suppose that Mecca exists in Egypt, or in Libya, and Libya has asked for the help of foreign forces. This would mean that Mecca was under the protection of those foreign forces. By foreign forces, I mean in particular Christian or Jewish forces. This is unacceptable to Muslims.

I am asserting that linking religions and politics and mixing them is a very grave and objectionable thing, and it must be resisted. This is the greatest corruption. The person in power should use politics, and the word politics is totally at odds with religion. Etymologically, politics means acting surreptitiously, traitorously, insidiously, and resorting to taming and appeasing so as to attain something, and religion does not have these things. Would it be reasonable to associate religion and trickery in hypocrisy? Diplomacy means hypocrisy. How can one speak of religious diplomacy, or mix religion and diplomacy? This would mean mixing religion and hypocrisy.

Thus, we are witnessing attempts to introduce demogogy. Demogogy and charlatanism are reaching their peak nowadays, most certainly, with politicians vying with each other these days to present themselves as rulers of the Islamic nation, and this is not proper. Power today is diplomatic, military, political, economic, technological rule, related to energy; with economic power, exploitation of earth and space, and relations between the forces in conflict on earth bearing no relation to religion.

We do not prevent anyone's dealing with these matters to act according to religion. We must solely give him an Islamic education. We must not set up an Islamic party to rule people, which considers people outside it as infidels. This is the charlatanism that starts to appear nowadays, saying that whoever engages in charlatanism belongs to the new religion, and he who does not enter charlatanism is an infidel. This is a heretical innovation. Any neologism introduced to religion is a heretical innovation, and any such an innovation is wrong, and anyone doing wrong will go to hell. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Yemeni Minister Arrives With Salih Message

LD0110173790 Rabat MAP in English 1310 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, Oct 1 (MAP)—Yemeni Minister of Electricity and Hydraulics 'Abd-al-Wahab Mahmud [title as received] arrived Sunday [30 September] afternoon in Rabat with a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen to King Hassan II.

In an arrival statement, the Yemeni official said the message was part of the underway consultations on the situation in the Gulf and the moves of certain Arab countries, such as Morocco in the first rank, to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis in an Arab framework. The visit is also part of the consolidation of cooperation between Yemen and Morocco, the Yemeni minister said.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Announces 'Tranquillity Period'

AB0110171490 Paris AFP in English 2317 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpt] New York, United Nations, Sept 30 (AFP)—Sudanese head of state 'Umar Ahmed al-Bashir Sunday [30 September] announced a "tranquility period" in his war-wracked African country to allow for vaccination of children.

Brigadier General al-Bashir, who was speaking at a UNICEF World Summit for Children here, said the period of tranquility in the disputed zones would last till the end of the year. "If the rebels respond," he said, "then we are ready to declare a permanent ceasefire and continue negotiations to achieve peace." [passage omitted]

Underground Declares 'Right' To Oust Al-Bashir

JN0110194690 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 28 Sep 90 p 17

[Text] London—"AL-KHALIJ": A previously underground group of Sudanese leaders has decided to go public and work for the restoration of legitimacy and democracy to the country. The group called on members of the Armed Forces to join the ranks of Operation "I Am the Sudan," dedicated to the deposition of the Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir regime, which seized power on behalf of the National Islamic Front.

Following several meetings and contacts with political party leaders within the national democratic grouping encompassing all Sudanese opposition forces, the group said in a statement it will use its right as a legitimate leadership to overthrow the al-Bashir Government. Gen Fathi Ahmad, the commander in chief deposed by the al-Bashir-led coup, signed the statement on behalf of the group.

Gen 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, the [former] chief of staff for operations; and Brigadier Gen al-Hadi al-Bishri, [former] acting director general of Sudan's security services, also took part in formulating the statement.

Regarding the Gulf crisis, the statement said the legitimate Sudanese leadership strongly refuses to allow Sudan to be a dagger pointed at Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

SPLA Statement on Relief 'Mismanagement'

EA0110180190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Press statement by Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army, SPLM/SPLA]

[Text] The leadership of the movement has been following very closely the manner by which the UN's relief program has been conducted in the Sudan. It is therefore noted with great concern the negative roles played by the Government of the Sudan and some designated members of the UN in their failure to allow timely delivery of relief aid to the needy. Being a major partner to the operation, the movement sees itself morally indebted and accountable in all aspects to the donors as well as the needy. Hence, it is imperative for it to inform the donors and the world at large about what it sees as mismanagement of the operation by the other two parties. It is unfortunate that the SPLM/SPLA and its relief wing, the SRRA [Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Agency], had always been denied the opportunity to participate in those forums in which major issues of the programme were discussed.

The relief program called OLS [Operation Lifeline Sudan] was formed to save with emergency food aid millions of civilians displaced by the war and other natural calamities in the Sudan. A quarter of a million people had already died from starvation before the operation started. It, however, had to take a lot of concerted efforts from the donors, international NGO's [nongovernmental organizations], some Western governments, and sympathetic individuals to persuade the government in Khartoum to accept the operation.

It is worth to remember that a similar operation, codenamed Operation Rainbow, designed in 1986 to deliver relief food to the SPLA town of Yirol and other government towns in the south, was aborted by the government of Khartoum. The manager of the operation was subsequently expelled for denouncing the government's action. When OLS was agreed upon by the then government of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the SPLM/SPLA and UN in March 1989, it was to run on a tripartite understanding based on the principle of neutrality on the side of the UN partnership, mutual agreement, and respect.

Corridors of tranquility were identified for air, river, rail, and road movement in those areas not militarily contested. These were to be discussed for coordination before any action. Now, the Islamic fundamentalist military government of 'Umar al-Bashir has unfortunately manipulated the weakness of the UN to divert OLS from its noble objectives to fulfill its political and military agenda. It is Khartoum now, and not the OLS, that decides where and when food should be taken. It can stop relief flights at will, obstruct relief trucks and river barges from reaching food to the needy, and nobody can question it. What was conceived as UN's OLS has now become government OLS. This has arisen from nothing else other than the UN's mistake to place the representative of the secretary general, Mr. Michael Priestly to Khartoum, who became victim of government blackmail. Worst of all, and most horrible of any civlized action on earth, Khartoum has pushed over 60,000 of the displaced who had fled the civil war and taken refuge in the north back to their homelands, which had been pillaged and destroyed by the government army and militias. Yet Mr. Priestly, seated in Khartoum, watches on with tight lips.

The train that was loaded with food a year ago to take it to both government and SPLA stations in the south has not moved. Priestly attempted to get it moving, but the government demanded 59 percent of 1,400 metric tonne share to its side before it could be allowed to move. He then approached the movement to accept the smaller share, claiming that reassessments would be carried out and if found that there were more people in SPLA areas, then more would be allocated in the next quota.

It is an open secret that there are no more than 600 civilians in Aweil and, as in other towns, are kept there against their will. Priestly knows pretty clear that the bulk of southern Sudanese live in the countryside looking after their animals or tending crops. The over 60,000 displaced returnees in Bahr al-Ghazal who should have benefited the train food go to their original villages, which, including the entire countryside all over the south, are controlled by the SPLM/SPLA [sentence as heard]. The reassessment theory of Mr. Priestly bears no substance at all. The SPLM/SPLA accepted the smaller share just to let the food go to the needy.

OLS instead demanded that the movement should declare its acceptance publicly on Radio SPLA announcement [as heard] and that the train will not move until this was done. The announcement was made and Priestly went to Babanusah for a mock flag-off to the train. Later it was claimed that the train derailed, because the rails developed metal fatigue. This was a clear lie. It was the government which stopped it, claiming that militias threatened to blow it up if it moved. The militias are part of the government forces after all.

In his recent visit to southern Sudan, Priestly claimed that the river barges were loaded and ready to leave Kosti for Malakal. He accused the movement of causing delay to their departure. The movement, however, gave its green light for the barges to move with effect from 26 August 1990. This was made public on Radio SPLA. The barges have not moved till now.

SRRA had directly reported to Priestly that food was badly needed in Mayen and Bum in Bahr al-Ghazal and (Dajo) in eastern Upper Nile. WFP [World Food Program] representatives reported in his presence that they had the food and funds for air delivery to these places, but Priestly said this should not take place until he got clearance from Khartoum. Two months now the clearance has not come while people are starving and dying.

It has been the policy of Khartoum to use the scorched earth policy to depopulate the south. Maybe starvation is part of this policy and Khartoum may do everything possible to achieve it. It brought OLS and other relief operations to a halt last year after bombing SPLA towns of Yirol, Waat, Torit, etc, etc, and denied responsibility. Instead it banned relief flights on the pretext that investigations were being carried out on who did the bombing. This was followed by a string of accusations on OLS and other NGO's that they were transporting weapons to arm SPLA. Khartoum further demanded from the UN and Government of Kenya placement of a Sudanese military personnel to monitor passage of relief aid from Kenya to Sudan at the border.

[Words indistinct] Priestly ordered that all other NGO's in Nairobi should not conduct any emergency relief flights into SPLA areas until the ban was lifted. Following heavy floods around the town of Yei early this year, resulting in thousands being displaced, SRRA made many appeals in vain. Priestly and his colleagues, (Peter Jobas) and (?Vincent O'Reilly) claimed taking food to the area would jeopardise UN negotiations with Khartoum.

It was the Catholic Relief Service, notwithstanding the situation, that made emergency deliveries. It is worth mentioning that when the relief operations were stopped last year in November, only very few areas had received the food. Areas of eastern Upper Nile around the town of Nasir had not received even a grain of relief food. Khartoum only chose to lift the ban on the onset for the rains in April this year, knowing very well nothing could be achieved due to the impassable roads. Now the situation has further worsened due to the drought that destroyed crops this year. Nineteen ninety-one will most likely be another bleak year, if not worse than 1988 in which thousands died from starvation.

Khartoum is not only denying food to populations in SPLA areas but also those in its own towns. Reports coming in from Malakal (?say) that people are surviving on refuse. The price of durrah [sorghum] has risen to 4,000 [Sudanese] pounds per sack. It is the army who are engaged in the lucrative business. (?In spite) of this, civilians are not allowed to leave the town [words indistinct].

The government of Al-Bashir has accepted the resumption of the operation in April this year with a lot of conditions. It demanded a lion's share of the 72,000 metric tonnes of the food, as opposed to 15,000 metric tonnes to SPLA side. It also demanded the OLS should play the role of a policeman over all independent NGO's in SPLA areas since it could not control them from Khartoum, following also their failure to place their military representatives for monitoring purposes. In his fund-raising drive in Europe, Priestly asked some European governments to support enforcement of Khartoum's demands. He singled out Norwegian People's Aid and (MFF) [expansion unknown] Holland, and accused them of conducting illegal flights and transporting not only food, a phrase to mean war material.

All NGO's conducting relief programs from Nairobi into SPLA areas are now forced to sign a memorandum of understanding prepared by Khartoum's Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission for OLS to implement in Kenya. OLS undertook a risky operation without consulting the movement. It transported 900 metric tonnes of food from Uganda through Zaire to Yambio. (?Then) it claimed the food was for Sudanese refugees living in Zaire.

SPLA had advised against land corridors in Western Equatoria for security reasons. However, the military governor of Equatoria convinced OLS officials that his forces had cleaned the area of SPLA. He further invited and flew to Yambio with Priestly and (Peter Jobas). The food, which included building materials for bridges, was actually needed by the government army to recapture Kaya and Kajo Kaji from SPLA.

On the other hand, Priestly avoided the joint relief committee meeting that was agreed between himself and the movement. The meeting was an alternative to the donors' consultative meeting held in Khartoum by the UN and Government of Sudan. It was to comprise representatives from SRRA, OLS, Government of Sudan and the donor community and to take place in Nairobi early this year with the purpose to resolve fundamental issues concerning implementation of OLS principles and modalities of operation.

UN and Government of Sudan have twice held meetings on OLS in Khartoum to the exclusion of the SPLM/SPLA. The movement demanded that such meetings should have been held elsewhere neutral for it to participate. Priestly again claimed that the meeting cannot take place, because the warring parties were reluctant to talk peace. Indeed, the UN could play a positive role of peace advocacy if it exercised the position of honest broker, inasmuch as the position of the movement on OLS and other relief operations still remains unchanged. It is also to be understood that it will not continue to tolerate forever such provocative actions perpetuated by Khartoum and OLS.

At this juncture, it would like once again to address itself strongly to the UN and the donor community on the following points:

(1) The movement denounces obstruction of relief food aid to the needy. It therefore implores the international community to put pressure on the UN and Government

of Sudan to allow the trains [and] river barges to deliver relief food to the affected areas of Malakal and northern Bahr al-Ghazal.

(2) The UN secretary-general's representatives being in Khartoum compromises his position of neutrality and fails [as heard] his shuttle diplomacy. He should therefore be moved to a neutral capital or New York itself if the operation is to be continued successfully. After all, the whole exercise is purely a humanitarian one and, such as that, should not be construed to mean that the UN by so doing would have both undermined Sudan's state sovereignty and equally interfered in the internal affairs of the country—never.

State sovereignty in this case should not be considered in the abstract. It is attached to a land of which the Sudan Government has lost over 95 percent of the areas in question to the SPLA. On the other hand, a government that willfully starves its population or neglects feeding it in such a manner that all its neighboring countries are adversely and directly or indirectly affected cannot enjoy, especially in the hands of the UN, the noble international principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states. If giving financial or military aid to a collapsing government without the consent of its people is not interference, then granting food or nonfood relief aid to such a people or such a government without the acceptance of the latter is not.

(3) That the movement not recognize the type of agreement OLS is pressurizing other independent NGO's to sign. OLS should know that no agreement was signed between itself and Government of Sudan or the SPLM/SPLA. It should therefore be clear to OLS that the areas of the Sudan under administration of the movement are not mandatory to the UN. OLS should desist from enforcing the agreement and to understand that it is not a cartel of NGO's, but simply a big NGO operation.

(4) The innocent civilians in the SPLA besiged towns of Juba, Wau, and Malakal are held therein by al-Bashir's army coercively, wrongfully, and against all recognized international standards of behavior during the times of war. Those Sudanese are therefore hostages similar to the ones in the present Gulf crisis. Nevertheless, mistakenly or not, OLS and the Lutheran World Federation have categorized them as only needy persons. Actually they are hostages also and foremost need their liberty. Consequently, the SPLM is requesting the donor governments, UN and the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] to look at the issue from that premise and work hard and promptly to let [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir allow his captives to leave the towns of Juba, Malakal, and others immediately.

(5) UN and Government of Sudan to respect the principles of the operation if OLS is to succeed and become a model for other similar operations.

In conclusion, the movement still recognizes and appreciates the much [as heard] OLS has done, especially roles played by individuals such as Mr. James Grant, who was very instrumental and energetic in molding of OLS from its infancy. It therefore thanks all those who have sacrificed their time and energy for the operation and further commends the roles played by all those organizations and their members, for example, ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross], (ERS), (WVI), (NPA), the Oxfam, (SPF), (Medics), (AICF), (AMI), not to mention all but a few.

Kuwait

Crown Prince Addresses Nation on Occupation

LD0110154990 London KUNA in Arabic 1337 GMT 1 Oct 90

["Address to the Nation by Vice Amir and Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, on 1 October 1990"—KUNA headline; formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 1 Oct (KUNA)—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters; loyal sons of Kuwait; sons of our great people: The peace of God, his benevolence and blessings be upon you. Good and blessed greetings to you. I join hands with all of you, and I greet your heroic steadfastness in the face of the tyrant of Baghdad and his despotic clique who are acting wickedly with corruption and tyranny in our dear homeland. I pray to Almighty God to bring us together on the soil of our cherished Kuwait after we have cleansed it from the filth of the aggressive invaders, and liberated it soon with the help of God from the perfidious occupation.

O you our kinfolk; almost two months have passed since the sinful Iraqi occupation of our dear homeland, during which you were always present in our mind. We have been with you always and among you night and day, with our hearts, feelings, thoughts, and sentiments. The picture of our dear Kuwait and our kinfolk holding out there has never left us for one moment, whether we are awake or asleep. God knows how much we suffer because of your sufferings, and how much we are unhappy due to your unhappiness, and how much we feel pain when we hear about what the criminals are doing to you.

But this, brothers and sisters, does not impede our determination, and does not weaken our resolve. On the contrary, it gives us more trust in the victory of God, more faith in our right, more insistence on our steadfastness and resolve to liberate our homeland, mindful of what Almighty God said: "Those to whom the people said: The people have gathered against you, therefore fear them; but this increased them in faith, and they said: God is sufficient for us—an excellent guardian is He". [Koranic verse] God spoke the truth.

Brothers and sisters in our dear country and everywhere: You are not alone in facing up to the sinful occupation, and you are not alone in confronting the forces of despotism and aggression. All the world is standing on your side, supporting you with words and deeds. It supports you and backs you; it greets your valiant steadfastness, and it raises its voice loudly declaring its rejection and condemnation of the aggression of the sinful Iraqi regime against our dear homeland.

History has not witnessed any precedent for the unanimity of the world, east and west, south and north, in supporting and backing a cause such as our just cause, in besieging the aggressor and tightening the noose around him to make it withdraw its forces from our lands, whether peacefully or by war.

Quite recently you saw how the whole world stood up at the historic session of the UN General Assembly to greet our amir and the leader of our march, may God protect him, after his splendid speech at the United Nations. The international community was in fact saluting your steadfastness, supporting your legitimacy, and affirming its sympathy and solidarity with your national struggle against the vicious Iraqi occupation of our country.

Kuwait had stood up, represented by our beloved amir, receiving the world's respect and appreciation and enjoying the solidarity and support of all the peoples of the world, while the representative of the Iraqi regime left the UN hall followed by looks of condemnation and contempt from the representatives of all nations.

Brothers and sisters; sons of our dear homeland; we are not the first people subjected to the trial of invasion and occupation. Several others peoples in various parts of the world had had to go though such trials, throughout the ages, but they did not despair in the face of invasion, and did not surrender to aggression. Quite the contrary, they rushed forward struggling against occupation, and stood up in one rank fighting aggression. And the sons of these peoples stood up in solidarity and cohesion with one another to fight the aggressive invaders until God made them victorious and they liberated their countries from the filth of occupation.

These are, brothers and sisters, historical facts from all places and all times. Wrong must fail and right is bound to be victorious. Justice must prevail, and tyrants and criminals are bound to go.

"God desired to verify the truth by his words, and to cut off the unbelievers to the last remnant, so that He might verify the truth and prove untrue what is untrue, though the sinners are averse to it." [Koranic verse] God spoke the truth.

Brothers and sisters in steadfastness in our cherished Kuwait. The whole world is following with support and appreciation your struggle, steadfastness, and resistance to the sinful ocupation. The whole world is following with condemnation and dismay the practices of the occupation forces of the perfidious Iraqi regime in our dear country. Do not despair, brothers, if you see the aggressors trying to demolish the splendid civilization you have built, or destroy the comprehensive growth you have constructed.

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid if the enemy steps up its pressure against you, implementing its evil plan aimed at displacing you and forcing you out of our dear homeland so that it can bring in its hordes of mercenaries and aliens from far afield to replace you, reside in your homes and establish themselves in your houses and settle in your country.

Do not despair for all this and other practices. The vicious enemy, no matter how many crimes it may commit, will not be able to do away with your resolve, and will not diminish your steadfastness and resistance. It also will not be able to weaken your faith and will.

You are stronger than the enemy, because you are right and it is wrong. You are stronger than the aggressor, because you are the owners of the land, and the enemy and its tyrannical clique are aliens. You are stronger because God is with you, and because the whole world is with you.

The whole world is on your side against the aggressor who stands alone, ostracized and isolated. The aggressors will not be able to do away with Kuwait because Kuwait will never bow and will continue to exist with God's help. Kuwait exists thanks to you, your determination, steadfastness, sacrifices, cooperation, and your united stand. Kuwait will continue to exist with God's help and the invaders will be defeated and the aggressors will leave with their tails between their legs, defeated and disappointed. With God's help and backing we will rebuild Kuwait with our own hands, our determination, cooperation and our love for our dear country. Our flags will flutter high over our land, the light will once again illuminate our streets and roads and our institutions, and the structures of our development will gain in loftiness and height. With God's help Kuwait will also gain in magnificence, security, and prosperity. Our beloved people will return, with God's permission, with more pride and dignity. Their dear country will, God willing, become a beacon of goodness, civilization, and generosity as a good tree with a firm root in the soil and branches rising to the sky. [passage omitted]

On this glorious day our dear land is being defiled by the feet of the invading aggressors, who have removed the smile from the faces of children, sowed terror in hearts, spread injustice and anxiety in our beloved country and dared to attack God's houses, violating their sanctity and abolishing the sermons in the mosques. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and sisters, sons of our great people, inhabitants of our beloved country do not lose heart and do not despair for you will have the upper hand, God willing, and be patient and vie in patience and be steadfast, for God's victory is close at hand. We will meet again in our beloved Kuwait soon with God's help. Peace and God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

Iraqi Opposition Figure Cited on Gulf Situation

LD0110193290 London KUNA in Arabic 1736 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Damascus, 1 Oct (KUNA)—The secretary of the Iraqi opposition Communist Party 'Aziz Muhammad has said that the only political solution for the crisis in the Gulf region is the complete and immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He stressed that any Arab solution that includes a reward for the aggressor is rejected.

In a statement to KUNA, he said that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has caused extremely great damage to the Arab peoples, and he considered that the invasion of Kuwait and its annexation are an unforgivable sin.

He said that the Iraqi leadership did not expect the unanimity and the quick Arab and international reaction that denounced and condemned the occupation of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti crisis has brought rapprochement between the viewpoints of the United States and the Soviet Union.

There was no harmony of views between these two states regarding any crisis except on the Kuwaiti crisis and the need for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops. He added that the road to Jerusalem does not go through Kuwait.

'Aziz also rejected the excuses used by Saddam Husayn to invade [Kuwait] and said: "Saddam Husayn has forgotten that he has laid mines on the road to any unionist project between Iraq and any other Arab country." He added that the occupation of Kuwait under this pretext [of unity] "has disfigured the face of unity and aroused the aversion of the Arab peoples to his type of unity, for unity is achieved with understanding between the peoples and not by force and coercion."

He went on to say: "Those who campaign in favor of Saddam despite his misdeeds do not know his nature and they are harming the cause of Palestine and the uprising of its people in the occupied territories."

We say to these people that, if they like Saddam, then they should not present the occupation to him in a favorable light. They should show him that that road is difficult and show him the way of retreat and immediate withdrawal from the whole of Kuwaiti territory.

'Aziz pointed out that the basic duties of the Iraqi opposition forces include mobilizing and uniting all their factions and forming a front with a joint action strategy that would topple the dictatorship in Iran. They should form a coalition government that would include all the Iraqi opposition forces and whose basic duty would be drawing up future Arab and international Iraqi policies.

He denied that the Iraqi opposition has any intention of forming a government in exile, stressing that the formation of the government should be inside Iraq.

In concluding his statement, he said that the Iraqi regime is in deep crisis, that the fall of that regime is imminent, and that the winds of change will blow over Iraq soon.

Saudi Arabia

Yemen Warned Against Making Unjust Accusations

LD0110193890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Oct (SPA)—A responsible source made a statement to SPA today in which he said:

We would prefer not to have answered the Yemeni accusations spread by some news agencies and attributed to responsible sources in Sanaa except that Sanaa radio said in its evening news bulletin yesterday that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih delivered a speech to the People's Congress in which he said:

"We did not expect Saudi Arabia to mistreat the Yemeni citizens resident there and to adopt arbitrary measures against them."

He condemned what he called the Saudi media campaign against Yemen and its political leadership. This was followed by the falsifications and accusations issued yesterday by the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council about this matter.

The source added: In public statements and in communiques, the Saudi Interior Ministry has announced that the Saudi measures of withdrawing the facilities granted to the sons of the Yemeni community resident in Saudi Arabia are not a violation of their money or property, and therefore do not involve expelling them from Saudi Arabia. Therefore, every single accusation in the statements of the Yemeni officials about expelling Yemenis or adopting arbitrary measures against them is completely unfounded.

The source said: We have previously said in public statements that Saudi Arabia is a free country and that the sons of the Yemeni community resident in Saudi Arabia are free to work according to the regulations applicable to all other residents, and they are all entitled to continuous care as long as they adhere to internal regulations and uphold the law of the land.

The source says in his statement: All the Yemenis who returned to their homeland from the Kingdom left the Kingdom willingly, a matter that gives the lie to allegations of expulsions or displacement. However, what is surprising is that His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih reacted in silence to the expulsion of thousands of Yemenis from Iraq and Kuwait in the worst state they could be in, with all their money and property confiscated, while at the same time President Salih levels accusations against the Kingdom about matters that did not happen at all.

The source added: It is also surprising that his excellency the president should denounce the replies of the Kingdom—overlooking what has been released and is being released every day in its information media—in the form of damaging fabrications against the Kingdom through the press, radio, and television, a matter that is preserved, in records.

Here we wonder: How can his excellency allow his information media to harm others and then turn and bring others to account for facing up to his information media campaigns. We have for long stood above responding to these unjust Yemeni information campaigns, in the hope of seeing them correct their positions, but our silence was misintepreted.

The source concluded his statement saying: We once again affirm to the officials in Sanaa and to the sons of the Yemeni people, that our brother Yemenis residing in the Kingdom have equal rights and duties with their brothers residing in the Kingdom who originate from Arab and Islamic states, and also with others.

After these repeated clarifications, we would like to warn against the consequences of persisting in levelling unjustified accusations.

Authorities Expel 5,000 Yemenis as Reprisal

NC2909065290 Paris AFP in English 1938 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 28 (AFP)—The Saudi authorities have expelled 5,000 Yemenis since the beginning of the week as part of reprisals against Yemen for its stand in the Gulf crisis, the Yemeni press reported Friday. The independent Al-Mustaqbal weekly said hundreds of Yemenis were driven every day in Saudi trucks to the Hard border post and left several hundred meters (yards) from the frontier to walk the rest of the way home.

Saudi Arabia last week expelled several Yemeni diplomats, accusing them of undermining national security, and abolished visa and other privileges enjoyed by the one million Yemenis living in the kingdom. Riyadh justified the moves as reprisals for Yemen's refusal to condemn Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Cited on Solidarity With Kuwait

LD0110215990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2006 GMT 1 Oct 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] [Announcer] The amir [of Kuwait] has received the Bahraini foreign minister, Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister. [video shows correspondent talking to Sa'ud al-Faysal]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] We would like to hear your highness's views on the results of the meeting between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state and EEC foreign ministers.

[Al-Faysal] In fact there were many contacts by the GCC countries with all the sectors and countries of the United

Nations. I think that the greatest expression of the United Nations' position was the reaction to the amir's address, which was a historic one and the reaction, as witnessed by the whole world, was also a historic one. This firm stand with Kuwait and against the aggression and against occupation, and the explicit call for the withdrawal; and restoring the legitimacy constitute a stand by the international community which we can only appreciate and we thank all those who supported justice and right under these difficult circumstances.

[Reporter] What about the meeting between the EEC and the GCC foreign ministers?

[Al-Faysal] It was good. According to the statements we heard, whether from the EEC countries, the United States, the permanent Security Council members such as the Soviet Union and China, I consider that their stands confirm the firmness of the international stand, and particularly the firmness of the stand in the UN Security Council. Naturally, this inevitably has its effects on the situation. [end recording]

Cabinet Discusses Gulf Crisis, Oil Supplies

LD0110201190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon. After the session, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made the following statement to SPA:

At the beginning of today's session, the custodian of the two holy mosques talked about the brief reports on the current situation in the Arab Gulf and the latest political and military developments. He stressed that the stand of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia is to call for peace, the prevention of bloodshed, and the smothering of the flames of war before they flare up. King Fahd reaffirmed that this could be made easy with the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the state of Kuwait, the restoration of its legitimacy under the leadership of its amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and his government, and the return of the Kuwaiti people to their homeland with the elimination of all the reasons which required the arrival of the fraternal and friendly troops which back the Saudi armed forces in their defense of the kingdom and its vital installations.

The information minister added: In this respect, the beloved king briefed the Council of Ministers on all the meetings and the talks he held recently with His Royal Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the state of Kuwait, and His Majesty Shaykh Hamad bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the crown prince and defense minister of the State of Qatar, who conveyed a message from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the state of Qatar, in addition to the successive meetings with a delegation of the French senate and representatives of a number of Islamic bodies in the Muslim world. The custodian of the two holy mosques also shed light on the contents of the messages he received lately from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman, his excellency the president of the Republic of Italy and his excellency the president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, which were conveyed to him by the envoys of these states. He pointed out that the opinions of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia coincide with those of all the leaders of the fraternal Arab and Islamic states and the leaders of the friendly states with regard to the common view of the Arab Gulf crisis.

The information minister went on to say: after this the Council of Ministers examined a number of local issues. [passage omitted]

Al-Sha'ir continued his statement and said: The Council then discussed a number of other issues, including those concerning economic affairs. In this respect, Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba al-Khayl explained the results of the joint meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Development and Construction which he attended in Washington. He pointed out the economic matters discussed and which are related to the current events, mainly the oil market and the alarming constant price increases.

After that His Excellency Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources and Acting Planning Minister Hisham Muhyiddin Nazir explained to the council the situation in the oil market and said: Since the beginning of the current crisis on 2 August this year, the custodian of the two holy mosques has stressed the need to monitor the market and try to prevent a price increase resulting from panic buying. He added: despite the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had acted, in coordination with the states with which it cooperates, to convince the other OPEC states to raise production to cover the shortage in the production of the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait, the average price of Brent oil reached over $27.50 per barrel in August. The price of Dubai oil also reached over $25 on average per barrel. This price exceeds by far what the market can absorb economically, or what the developing countries can bear. He pointed out that the kingdom of Saudi Arabia increased its production by over two million barrels per day and that it would soon raise that production even further at regular intervals without affecting the capacities of its oil fields.

The minister went on to say that there is absolutely no need for more panic in the markets because the fourth term, during which consumption is estimated at 54.5 million barrels per day, could be covered by an estimated 53 million barrels which come from various sources and which, are currently produced. He added that the remainder does not exceed 1.5 million barrels per day or two millions at the most, and that such quantities could be drawn from the commercial reserves, which exceed 700 million barrels at present. Minister Nazir also indicated that the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, had done its utmost to control the prices and that it is now up to the companies which have the reserves and to the market speculators to do their duty, for the price of Brent oil reached over $41 per barrel at the end of September and the Dubai oil $37 per barrel. He added that the effects of this increase, if it were to continue soaring, would be disastrous for both the developing and the industrialized states. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives Iraqi Minister, Saddam Letter

JN0110190490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the council, this afternoon received brother Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He handed over to the brother chairman a letter from his brother President Saddam Husayn of Iraq on regional developments and relations between the two brotherly countries.

The brother chairman gave him a reply letter to his brother President Saddam Husayn outlining our country's stance and efforts to find a peaceful way out. Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, and the Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa were present at the meeting.

Minister Returns to Sanaa With Mubarak Message

JN0110192290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, state minister for Council of Representative affairs, returned to Sanaa from Cairo today after a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, where he handed over a letter from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He told SABA' he is bringing a reply letter from the Egyptian president stressing the need to develop and step up relations between the two brotherly countries and expressing a common interaction on current Arab developments, particularly events in the Arabian Gulf. He concluded by saying that the letter reflects President Mubarak's and the Egyptian political leadership's concern for bilateral relations that will ensure a continuation of the militant and historical ties between the Yemeni and Egyptian peoples.

Security Council Session on Intifadah Requested

JN2809201090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] The Republic of Yemen today officially asked for an emergency session of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, the Yemeni permanent representative to the United Nations, said in a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', that our country has called on the Security Council to hold an emergency session to discuss the bestial acts the Zionist authorities have carried out against the sons of the Palestinian people. Among these acts is the demolition of 30 homes in the occupied Gaza Strip by the Zionist authorities. They also announced that they will expel a number of Palestinians.

Brother al-Ashtal added that our country will cooperate with the Palestinian delegation until the international Security Council starts discussions over the Zionist bestial acts against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, as well as the Zionist entity's refusal to implement the international community's previous resolutions regarding the Palestine question.

The Yemeni permanent representative to the United Nations concluded his statement by saying that it is expected that the emergency session of the Security Council called for by our country will convene next week.

Saddam Confers With Palestinian Islamic Leader

JN3009153090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis. During the meeting, the leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement stressed his total support, as well as that of the sons of the Palestinian people and the revolutionaries of the intifadah, for Iraq against the forces of infidelity and tyranny, which have desecrated the sacred land of Islam and the Muslims.

Shaykh al-Tamimi declared that he does not consider himself only a supporter of Iraq, but also a soldier in the honorable battle being led by Iraq and its mujahid leader to enable the nation to achieve victory and liberate Palestine.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed his great appreciation for the honorable position of the faithful and genuine Palestinian Arab people as well as his pride in the spirit of sacrifice demonstrated by our people in usurped Palestine. He described the readiness of the Iraqi people and the Arab nation to make sacrifices in the face of tyranny and aggression against the Muslims' sanctities as an advanced level of worship that washes bodies of their filth so that souls can come out of them pure and chaste. His excellency also stated that victory will be for the Iraqis, the Arabs, and the Muslims, God willing. God's victory is close.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister.

Saddam Receives Mauritanian Minister, Message

JN3009200990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Mauritanian Interior Minister Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, who conveyed to the leader president an oral message from his brother Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya dealing with developments in the region. The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab.

Ministry Urges World Condemnation of Embargo

JN2909183590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1732 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—Iraq has urged the international community to condemn attempts to prevent food and medicine from reaching Iraq and every one living there. Commenting today on preventing food and medicine from reaching Iraq, a Foreign Ministry spokesman described the move as a despicable crime, urging an immediate end to it and punishment of those who carry it out. Following is the text of the Foreign Ministry spokesman's comment:

News agencies quoted French Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard as stating on 26 September 1990 that the prevention of foodstuffs from reaching foreigners in Iraq is a brutal act that cannot be tolerated and a mean act that can be described as brutal.

For two months, Iraq has been explaining to states involved their governments' responsibility for the competent Iraqi authorities' inability to meet the food requirements of people in Iraq, including foreign nationals, as a result of the crime of preventing foodstuffs, medicine, and other daily needs from reaching Iraq after a military siege and other acts of terror were imposed by the United States and its supporters against mankind over the past two months. Preventing food and medicine from anyone, even from any creature, is a despicable and brutal crime that cannot be tolerated, especially when it is carried out on purpose against an entire people.

This is the position that every sane man should take and that every responsible man should adopt. Moreover, this position cannot allow any variations or discrimination as it is a humanitarian one.

On this occasion, we persistently urge everyone to condemn any attempt to prevent food and medicine from reaching Iraq and every one living there as a despicable crime that should be stopped immediately and its perpetrators punished.

Swiss Aid Society To Send Medical Supplies

JN3009090890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0830 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Switzerland has decided to send medical supplies worth 17 million Swiss francs, equivalent to $13 million, to Iraq.

REUTER quoted (Marques Alexander Entaniti), spokesman for the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs as saying that his government has decided to approve the shipment of medical supplies for humanitarian reasons.

A new society created to provide humanitarian aid to Iraq, especially in the domain of basic foodstuffs, medicines, and baby milk was set up in Geneva, Switzerland the day before yesterday [28 September)

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Amman Visit 29 Sep

JN2909190490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1853 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after a short visit to Amman, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan.

Mauritanian Envoy Brings Message

JN2909184890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, Mauritanian minister of interior, post, and telecommunications and personal envoy of Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya to his brother President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Baghdad today.

In a statement to INA, the Mauritanian envoy said he would convey a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya on the close bilateral relations and developments in the Arabian Gulf region. He was received at the airport by Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab and the Mauritanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Salih Calls 'Guests' 'Messengers of Peace'

JN2909173090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1606 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has said the foreign guests of Iraq are messengers of peace for the benefit of all mankind. This came in a statement issued by the National Assembly today. Following is the text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Statement issued by the National Assembly.

The chairman of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Council of Europe's secretary general have issued a statement accusing Iraq of using the foreign guests as human shields in violation of international law and human rights. In reply to this unfounded allegation, we say that, in line with its constitutional and humanitarian duties, the Iraqi National Assembly has found that hosting the foreigners in Iraq will avert the specter of war and military aggression. It also found that the presence of foreign guests in Iraq would guarantee the Iraqi people's right to live in peace and security by preventing the crime of aggression that U.S. President Bush and his allies are planning to commit against the Iraqi people, after having imposed an economic blockade on them and prevented food, medicine, and baby milk from reaching them in violation of the principles of human rights and the United Nations.

Therefore, the foreign guests of Iraq are messengers of peace for the benefit of all mankind. The National Assembly would like to recall once again leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative that he would allow the foreign guests to travel immediately according to their free choice and will if the United States of America pledges, through the UN Security Council, not to attack Iraq, and if all foreign troops withdraw from the sacred lands in Najd and Hejaz and the Arabian Gulf.

Regarding the call to allow European embassies and consulates to contact the guests, we would like to point out that the National Assembly has allocated the "peace post boxes" and made announcements in the media for those who wish to write to the foreign guests in Iraq.

[Signed] Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly speaker.

Following are the numbers of the peace post-boxes:

P.O. Box 39090, Baghdad, Iraq.

P.O. Box 50300, Baghdad, Iraq.

P.O. Box 50285, Baghdad, Iraq.

Foreigners To Receive Food Under Ration System

JN2909165090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad 29 Sep (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has said that the ration coupon system that came into effect on 1 September was dictated by the great Iraqi people's struggle under leader President Saddam Husayn's wise leadership to foil the unjust American decision to impose economic siege on Iraq in order to starve its children, women, and elderly.

In a statement to INA today, he said that the ration coupon system will secure basic and necessary foodstuffs in equal shares without any discrimination among Iraqis, Arabs, diplomatic missions, foreigners working in Iraq, and Iraq's guests; and that there are no plans to deprive foreign nationals of ration coupons. This had been alleged by some hostile and dubious media organs in their feverish campaign against Iraq to cover up imperialist, Zionist, and agent forces's crimes of occupying the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and entrenching the U.S. imperialist military invasion of the region and to expose the security, sovereignty, and peace of the Arab and Islamic homeland to the dangers of a comprehensive and destructive war.

He added that some countries have tried through UN bodies to secure food for their citizens in Iraq, while other foreign countries' representatives have asked for a tenfold increase in their citizens' share under the ration coupon system. He said: When we rejected these unjust demands, these parties began to distort Iraq's humanitarian position toward the foreign nationals, whose share of food is equal to that of Iraqis.

The trade minister concluded: This shameless position clearly exposes the racist and chauvinistic nature of the policy of the power-centers that dominate the United Nations and which have harshly violated international law and norms and human rights by their hostile decision to starve the entire Iraqi people. These sides are also using the issue of additional food for foreigners as another desperate tool to escalate their hostile scheme against Iraq and the Arab and Islamic nations by trying to commit the crime of igniting war.

Jasim Meets Japanese, Discusses Gulf Solution

JN2909122990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office in the Regional Command, this morning met with the Japanese parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Motohisa Ikeda who represents the Democratic Socialist Party.

Comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim stated that regardless of the enemies' military buildup and conspiratorial steps, particularly American imperialism's, in the Arabian Gulf, Iraq will firmly remain steadfast and face the unjust economic embargo until the Arab nation liberates its sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and holy Jerusalem.

Jasim said that leader President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August represents the best solution to all the problems of the region; it will also achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace for all conflicts. He cautioned the world about the dangers of falling into the American-Zionist trap seeking to occupy the oil resources in the Arabian Gulf. He noted the American conspiracy aimed at controlling the oil in the Arab homeland and in the world and at tampering with people potentialities.

The guest delegation explained its country's belief in the method of direct, peaceful dialogue to resolve problems peacefully. They said efforts must be made to keep away from the logic of military threats that would ignite a destructive war in the region.

Indian Red Cross To Supervise Food Distribution

BK2909105290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0947 GMT 29 Sep 90

[By Bernard Estrade]

[Text] Basra, Iraq, Sept 29 (AFP)—The Indian Red Cross plans to use 100 of its representatives to supervise the distribution of food sent by New Delhi for its nationals stranded in Kuwait. An Indian Red Cross official, interviewed Friday at a hotel in this southern Iraqi port city, said 90 volunteers would help 10 full-time employees in supervising the relief operation.

The official, who declined to be named, did not specify if the Iraqi authorities would permit supervision of the entire operation, from unloading to final distribution. Since the international trade embargo against Iraq, the authorities have turned down requests for foreign supervision of food distribution in Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Baghdad has said it could not feed foreigners because of the embargo and called on Asian countries to send their own supplies. India is so far the only country to have responded. Indian diplomatic sources said Friday a 10-tonne cargo of food had been unloaded at the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr. The ship which brought the food was to take out Indian evacuees on its return trip.

Western journalists on an Iraqi-organized visit to Basra saw an Indian military transport plane, a Soviet-built Ilyushin-76, on stand-by Friday at the city's new airport. The plane was to be used for the repatriation of elderly, sick or pregnant Indians, the Red Cross official said, adding that more than 150,000 Indians were hit by the food shortages in Kuwait.

Three Kuwait Airways planes, seized in the August 2 invasion, were also seen on the tarmac at Basra Airport. Western sources said other Kuwaiti planes were already in use after having been repainted in the colours of Iraqi Airways. Almost 1,500 Iindian nationals sailed from Umm Qasr late Friday aboard two Indian ferries bound for Dubayy in the United Arab Emirates, the diplomatic sources in Baghdad said.

The sailing was the first involving Indians to be authorized by Iraqi authorities from an Iraqi port, although on September 7 a Panamanian-registered vessel was allowed to take 722 Indians from Kuwait to Dubayy. In the airlift, some 480 Indians are heading home aboard two Air India flights each day from Basra to Bombay, the sources said. Another 3,500 are leaving Iraq each day overland to Jordan.

The Indian Government has said it planned to send five more flights to bring back nationals from Iraq and Kuwait. A government spokesman said the planes would be inspected at Sdana, Yurkey, under instructions from the Sanctions Committee of the United Nations, which has imposed air and sea blockades on Iraq until it withdraws from Kuwait.

Indians arriving in al-Basrah from the occupied emirate said Iraqi authorities had started to supply small quantities of food to Kuwait, but they said the capital was turning into a ghost town. Most shops and businesses were closed, they said, apart from the major hotels. Administrative buildings had been torched.

Editor Reacts to Remarks on Forces in Kuwait

JN2909062490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0523 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—The INA political editor has written the following:

AFP quoted U.S. Defense Department Spokesman Pete Williams on 26 September as saying that Iraq continues to send reinforcements to Kuwait on the Saudi border and that its forces now amount to 430,000 men equipped with 3,500 tanks, 250 [as received] armored personnel carriers, and 1,700 artillery pieces. The spokesman explained that these forces maintain a defensive posture, but they have sufficient defensive divisions to launch an offensive using all weapons and without prior warning.

Responding to these remarks, we say: Whenever the fears of the Saudi rulers somewhat calm down, the

Westerners, particularly the Americans, revive these fears through their intelligence information or fabricated information designed to intimidate or provide justifications to arouse fear with the aim of covering up the arrival of U.S. forces to occupy the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. It is known that Bandar Bin-Sultan, ambassador of the betrayer of the two holy mosques in Washington, is the one who facilitated the task of U.S. intelligence to involve his uncle the king in the decision to use foreign forces. After the king discovered part of the false information that U.S. intelligence had leaked through Ambassador Bandar in Washington, Bandar found himself greatly embarrassed. Thus, we see that whenever he picks a piece of news he uses it as a justification to invite foreign forces in.

Hence, he is seen building his justifications on such news items as if he were discovering something new or as if he were surprised by the fact that Iraq had this number, more or less, in Kuwait Governorate, as if Iraq were required to keep its weapons in depots while the concentrations of infidel forces mounted. Your Excellency the Ambassador, Iraq is hostile to no one except those who are hostile to it and to Islam.

Ramadan Says Iraq Will Not Start War in Region

JN2809202790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Sentence in quotation marks by interpreter in English]

[Text] The First Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan said in a television interview that Iraq will not be the first to start a war in the region.

[Begin Ramadan recording in Arabic] But we say this time we will not fire the first shot so that it will not be said that Iraq was the party that started the war. However, even if we fire the first shot, we would not, from the practical point of view, be the initiators. This is evidence of the Iraqi side's initiative. "Although President Mitterrand's proposals are different from our initiative, however, we believe President Mitterrad's proposals are positive." [end recording]

RCC Allows Cultivation of 'Border Strip' Land

JN2909160090 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 27 Sep 90 p 7

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In order to explain the Revolution Command Council's decision on beginning a national campaign for planting grains in the country for the current agricultural season 1990-1991, AL-QADISIYAH met with 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman, senior under secretary of the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, who said:

Since the forces of tyranny and aggression imposed the economic blockade against the great Iraqi people, culminating in the barring of food from Iraq; and in order to provide food for our glorious people, the leadership, headed by leader President Saddam Husayn—may God protect him—has taken a number of courageous and effective decisions to utilize all land suitable for cultivation in the country to grow basic grains, primarily wheat, as well as barley, field rice, and maize. On that basis, the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry has laid down a comprehensive plan for one year to utilize the 100 percent-guaranteed land; that is, irrigated and reclaimed land, in addition to land that depends on rain water. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the objectives behind the recent Revolution Command Council Decision No. 364, he said: The decision was aimed primarily at ensuring that farmers utilize and plant their land in the best way needed to achieve the desired increase in these crops, particularly wheat, in order to achieve food self-sufficiency for our people. [passage omitted]

Regarding small plots of land, less than five donums [an Iraqi donum is equivalent to approximately 2,500 square meters] in area, the ministry under secretary said: The aim of the grain planting campaign this season is to plant 80 percent of reclaimed agricultural land with wheat. But in land on both banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates, land served by the northern Jazirah irrigation project, and land that receives rain water, the percentage of wheat cultivation will be 100 percent. In addition, the decision covers the utilization and cultivation of all lands in the country, including administratively prohibited and off-limits land and the border [not further identified] strip. [passage omitted]

Water Project Links Shatt Al-'Arab, Kuwait

JN2809204890 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 25 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Local Government and the Baghdad Municipality have finished a project that will supply fresh water from the Shatt al-'Arab to the Saddamiyat al-Mitla' district in the valiant governorate of al-Basrah.

The project, which was completed in 25 days, included laying 100 kilometers of pipeline with a diameter of 400 millimeters, in addition to setting up 40 reservoirs, each of which has the capacity of 224 cubic meters, two pumping stations, and ten filling stations for tankers. This vital project, which was completed thanks to the efforts and capabilities of the Ministry of Local Government and the Baghdad Municipality, will meet the needs of the residents of Saddamiyat al-Mitla' district, which was established within the administrative borders of al-Basrah governorate after the return of the branch, Kuwait, to the origin, great Iraq.

Manufacture of Herbal Medicines To Break Embargo

JN2809210590 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 4

[Excerpt] The Herbs Medicine Center, which is an affiliate of the Health Ministry, has called on owners of local medicine and food processing plants and local pharmacies to manufacture herbal medicines according to special specifications to help break the economic blockade imposed by imperialist and Zionist forces against our great Iraq. [passage omitted]

INA Reviews Shevardnadze Remarks on Gulf Force

JN3009221490 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2100 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—The INA political editor has emphasized that he is confident that Shevardnadze's remarks on Soviet participation in a multinational military force in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] were not prompted by a desire to embarrass the United States, but were probably the outcome of prior coordination with the Americans.

The political editor was reacting to a statement by the Soviet foreign minister that if the United Nations should so decide, the Soviet Union would dispatch a military force to Najd and Hejaz and the Gulf. The political editor writes:

Before giving a direct reaction to your question, we would like to say that during the tsarist era, up to the 1917 October revolution in Russia, the Soviet Union's main overseas dream had been to have access to warm waters, meaning the Arabian Gulf. This is because the Soviet Union and its strategic planners appreciate the importance of the Arabian Gulf and its environs. It has not been possible for the Soviet Union to realize this dream. Now, however, with a U.S.-led military and naval buildup in the region, and now that the U.S. Administration has decided it needs USSR support, it has decided that its best interests are served by a flexible approach, when previously it dismissed any notion of the Soviet Union approaching the Gulf or the Palestinian question. The United States has grown more conciliatory toward the Soviets than at any time in the past. The last Bush-Gorbachev summit and the subsequent statements by Bush, in an effort to win Gorbachev's backing, dangled a role in the Palestinian question in front of the Soviet leader.

Regarding the so-called Gulf crisis, the Soviet stance, as enunciated by Shevardnadze, on the Soviet intention to send forces to the Gulf and Najd and Hejaz, came as no surprise to us.

Nor were we surprised by America's not objecting to, and welcoming such action should it be decreed by the United Nations.

But was Shevardnadze's statement coordinated with the American Administration, or was it initiated by the Soviets so as to embarrass the Americans, and then to pursue policies based on U.S. rejection? Thus if the Soviets had not coordinated with the Americans, had they done so with the king of Saudia Arabia? And will the United States prod the United Nations to make the relevant decision, or will it block it? And what will be the type and size of the Soviet force that the Americans will allow into the region?

What evidence and clues there had been before the Soviet statement declaring the intention or wish to send a force to the region argue for advance coordination between the Americans and the Soviets, rather than the likelihood that the Soviets probably wanted to use the opportunity to embarrass the Americans. Our argument is supported by American statements on their intention to work out a regional security system, since under the prevailing circumstances, it would not be possible for the United States to actualize such a security arrangement without the acquiescence of the major world powers.

But what are the major circumstances that pressured the U.S. Administration to accept the idea of a Soviet military participation in the region? The most important factor is that when the U.S. Administration was involved in dispatching its forces to the region, it did not have an accurate calculation of the difficulties it would face following this decision, which prevented the achievement of its goals. The most important of these difficulties were the steadfastness of the great Iraqi people, their brave Army and Armed Forces, and the mammoth revolution of the Arab and Islamic masses against its hostility and schemes, particularly against its occupation of Najd and Hejaz. So, to find a way to salvage its deteriorating reputation and to save face, after suffering humiliation under the feet of its invading troops, it began to pressure this and that force to get them involved in this crime, and to avoid bearing the responsibility of defeat alone, when this defeat takes place with God's help. It began to use the slogan of the United Nations and its multinational forces against our slogan, which stresses America's major role in the aggression and occupation. Perhaps the king of Saudi Arabia was embarrassed as a result of his position, which is really a difficult one, so he did not want the United States alone to bring its forces onto his land and the Gulf. Therefore, he established diplomatic relations with the USSR, and helped to invite a Soviet force. That is, if he still had any ability to hold consultations, not to say make a decision, because he has lost this ability since he brought this huge number of forces to the sanctities of the Arabs and Muslims.

However, it is ironic enough that several states have dispatched their armies and fleets to the region without even remembering the masters of Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, we are dutybound to point out that their forces are present in the Gulf and in Najd and Hejaz upon the request of Saudi Arabia or the Gulf states, and to say that these states do not dispatch forces to the region unless they receive approval from the latter. This means a continuous insult by these states to formal sovereignty. We are not surprised at the invading forces' slight of these homelands' sovereignty and people, because the parties concerned do not care about their countries' sovereignty and independence. They place their destinies under occupation.

As we said before, we are not worried about the increasing number of armies and fleets following after those of America in the region. Perhaps those who say that the presence of the multinational forces in the region is better than giving America a monopoly over the power and the decisionmaking are right. In all cases, God is the mightiest and the beloved of God will triumph, God willing.

Editorial Condemns Soviets for Anti-Arab Stance

JN3009202990 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 90 p 12

[Article by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi: "Villains of the World Unite"]

[Text] At first glance, I thought it must be a typing error—a common enough occurrence in the print media. But the words smacked of Americanism and petrodollars, and they were uttered by Eduard Shevardnadze!!

The former intelligence officer from Soviet Georgia had the gall to threaten Iraq with UN forces, after the (U.S.) [as published] Security Council rushed its eight resolutions at a pace unprecedented in the history of regional and international disputes.

It looks as though Shevardnadze has waxed nostalgic about his Stalinist past, when he liquidated his political opponents in the manner of the notorious Beria! He has mixed politics and diplomacy with his built-in tendency to violence.

Moscow's tone is ever taking an anti-Iraq, anti-Arab drift that has been in evidence since the emergence of Gorbachev's perestroyka, with Arab and Palestinian rights on the receiving end of the new Soviet line.

It looks as though in the maelstrom of accelerating developments, we have forgoten the Kremlin's crime of the age committed in the name of human rights, when the floodgates of Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine were opened!

The Soviets have sold out their sincerest friends in exchange for American and European aid, and stabbed in the back the most sacred Arab and humanitarian cause to gain access to the technology that will turn the Soviet Marxist economy into a free market economy!

The massive Soviet Jewish immigration into the heart of our occupied land and Jerusalem is a major conspiracy and brazen aggression against the inalienable, national rights of the Palestinian people and overall Arab interests, as well as being a great service to world Zionism in furtherance of its biblical dream of building (Greater Israel) from the Nile to the Euphrates!

Surely the Palestinians' right to repatriation to their native homeland is enshrined in the the international declaration on human rights that has been endorsed by UN General Assembly and the Security Council resolutions!

The question arises: Why do Shevardnadze and his country fail to show the kind of zeal and firmness they are displaying now when it comes to the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Lebanese question? Why is it that only the Arabs are expected to comply with international legitimacy, when the Zionist enemy is let off scot-free, covered by the U.S. and West European veto!?

And why did Shevardnadze and his camp ignore President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative as a framework for a comprehensive settlement!?

It is not proper that the foundations of the new world order touted by the Georgian minister should be laid down through trade deals and cheap Machiavellian tactics. It can only be founded on the principles of justice and fairness and equality between small and big nations.

The USSR has lost its credibility; and its standing with the Arab nation and the Third World has been shaken. The USSR is now regrettably playing second fiddle to hegemonist America, which is out to control the peoples and politics of the Third World. In the meantime, free Havana bravely speaks up against the warmongers and vampires, although the Cuban island is a stone's throw from the American nuclear monster.

Such peoples as the generous, ancient people of Iraq will not be bowed by blackmail, nor will they give in to pressure wherever it comes from. The hostile coalition of forces has no choice but to enter into an equal dialogue based on reciprocity, away from American and Atlantic spears.

As for the fading Reds, they have to reconsider their policies and stances, and find how the wind blows, since the compass of principles and friendships with peoples points in a direction different from where they are going. The banner of Arabism held by Saddam Husayn shall remain aloft no matter how big the coalition of hostile, renegade, misguided forces gets.

With the warmest congratulations to (the Bolshevik Shaykh) Shevardnadze from his new friend (Comrade) Sa'ud al-Faysal!

And, villains of the world unite!!

Paper Views U.S. Policy; Criticizes Shevardnadze

JN2909125590 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad,Sep.29, INA—According to Soviet strategists, foreign policy is a reflection of internal policy, which, in the Soviet Union, is currently at a loss in handling chronic problems.

In a commentary THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily said any chance to rectify the internal situation hinges, as Soviet officials believe, mainly on the availablity of funds and the prospects of cooperation with the West.

This key point, by itself, dovetails with the scale of U.S. response, a thing that makes it paramount for Soviet policy-makers to win the heart of the U.S. Administration and to be very cautious not to anger it under any circumstance.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was, therefore, under obligation at the U.N session to be courteous to his new friends, the petro-shaykhs with whom the Soviet Union has just established diplomatic relations.

When the United States deployed its troops in the Gulf and stretched things to the limit, it obviously had two main objectives to achieve, either staging an air blitzkrieg against selected Iraqi targets to relieve Israel of the "nightmare of Iraqi power" which is disrupting the smooth dreams of "Eretz Israel", or forcing Iraq into retreat to emerge victorious in the eyes of its allies.

However, none of the two U.S. objectives has been realised. Arab people and honest Arab governments have rallied round Iraq and reacted with outrage against U.S. policies. Iraq, for its part, has not been intimidated as they first expected. It has stood up to tremendous threats, seeking just and honourable peace.

The more the U.S.-led buildup grows in size and weaponry, the more determined Iraq becomes, throwing the U.S. and its allies into disarray. But as the crisis drags on, the U.S. is coming under mounting pressure to mobilise more of its reserve clients like Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and others.

The U.S. has found itself bogged down in the sands of the Arab Gulf region. Feeling the pinch of a fruitless stay, the Bush administration started a policy of pressure, veiled and open threats to its Western allies to secure military and financial support. Bush, moreover, went about cajoling some with promises of shaykhs' petro-dollars into lining up with him. Political bargaining is no longer a taboo during the Gulf crisis. One can easily put one's finger on daily deals that stink with dollar smell.

It was part of this bargaining when Bush tried to push French President Francois Mitterrand towards open hostility with Iraq. Moaning under frustration and the need to muster more support, the U.S. Administration turned to the Soviet Union. The U.S. is obviously feeling an urgent need to win as much support as possible following its failure to go it alone. It is now fervently engaged in a campaign to implicate everyone it can lay a hand on to portray its crusade as international, not purely American.

In so doing, the U.S. is trying to minimise anti-U.S. Arab reaction and to alleviate its allies' embarrassment. It has turned to Moscow in the hope that it still retains the traditional influence among Arabs and that Shevardnadze's U.N. speech would shake the Arabs' self-confidence. The U.S. can extricate itself from the Gulf quagmire only by reconsidering its calculations, ending its hostility to Iraq and quickly pulling its troops out of Moslems' holy land.

"Prince" Shevardnadze should be aware that his words would be needed only when he is seen by sincere Arabs as a friend. He must not curry favour with petro-Shaykhs and the tycoons of vice and pleasure because he is going to antagonise most Arabs.

Iraq has not counted on Shevardnadze for support. It is not concerned with the golden shake-hands he has made with Kuwait's ex-rulers, Fahd or the U.S. as a reward for this anti-Iraq stand.

Shevardnadze should have remembered that, but for Iraq, it would have been impossible to establish diplomatic ties with the oil Shaykhs, to collect so much rewards and secure so much promises.

It is paramount that Moscow should not miss the historic opportunity of playing a positive role which it can do without risking its fundamental economic, political and financial interests.

Paper on Failure of U.S. Attempts To Intimidate

JN2909110890 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 29, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said by massing such a huge military buildup in the Arab Gulf region, the Bush administration is obviously applying the big stick policy in a very crude way. If it was initially intended to be sabre-rattling to intimidate Iraq, this has certainly failed to bring about the desired effect.

In its today's editorial the paper further added for months now, Iraq has remained unshaken in the face of his unprecedented massive military operation and hostile propaganda drive. With every passing day, the U.S.-led alliance is exposed to new realities which may have forced the "Desert Shield" command to make systematic adjustments to their blue print. It would be too naive to believe that all these armadas, land and air muscles are need to defend Saudi Arabia. But something was needed to breathe a new life into the long-standing U.S. plan to occupy the Gulf oil wells and Saudi Arabia came to be a handy cover.

Gradually, the "Iraqi threats against Saudi Arabia are being belowed to the margin and in no time would the real motive be behind the massive U.S. deployment of forces be as clear as the sun in Saudi Arabia. Iraq was also aware right from the outset that the Americans, NATO and their "Arab" allies have come to put an end to its military might that has upset the balance of power in the Middle East.

The U.S. and its Mideast client, Israel, were perhaps caught off guard by the sudden emergence of the Iraqi military might that ended Israel's long unrivalled superiority in the region. It is no wonder therefore to hear a lot of talk about finishing off Iraq's military machine. This is certainly a basic objective of the U.S.-led invasion. Israel has been privately and openly complaining about Iraq's threat to its security.

Judging by the quick pace at which the U.S. deployment is being carried out, it is safe to conclude that the Bush administration believes that it has no time to lose. There is certainly much truth in reports that the U.S. Administration had ordered its troops dispatched even before bothering to secure the "concession" of Saudi Arabia which is, of course, no problem.

U.S. strategists seem to have failed to take into account that their boys have landed in a highly inflammable region. A casual spark could ignite an apocalyptic war from which nobody would emerge unscathed. War-hardened Iraq is braced for any situation that might be dictated by a U.S.-imposed war. It is well and efficiently armed, enjoying the support of overwhelming Arabs who opted not to betray the true principles of arab solidarity and common fate.

The Gulf crisis has presented the Americans with a new situation where more and more Arabs and Moslems are being antagonised. If and when the Pentagon ventures to trigger a conflict, the U.S. which has secured a precarious foothold would find itself ostracised after all U.S.-turned heads had started rolling

Daily Warns Bush Against Making 'War Decision'

JN3009111890 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sep 30, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily warned Bush that if he made the war decision, he would place the American people on the verge of a bottomles abyss—the abyss of war and destruction, and held him responsible for the impending disaster.

In its editorial for today, the daily stressed that the invaders should realize that if they took the risk of an aggression against Iraq, they had to face the Iraqi people, together with the Arabs and all honourable believers, and not only the Iraqi Army. At that moment, the daily added, neither Bush, nor his allies and agents, could master the course of events or decide ene [as received] the war, because such decision would depend on the consequences of that war and the determination of people who, with an unbending will, decided to defeat the evil.

The daily recalled President Saddam Husayn's statements during the 4th summit of the Arab Cooperation Council held in Amman earlier this year that some American statements and conduct towards pan-Arab security grew the Arabs' fears, particularly those concerning the permanent presence of the American fleets in the Gulf, the political and financial support for the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and the ongoing backing to the Zionist entity in field of armament.

It pointed out that since then President Husayn had warned that the United States might commit foolish acts against the Arabs, in a manner threatening the Arab national security.

The daily made it clear that in his recent statements, U.S. President Bush used to link America's leading role to the new international system which the United States sought to establish, in an attempt to show that America's command of such system could secure peace, stability and justice, the matter that contradicted the indisputable fact that the American hegemony over the world could only mean an international system based on the American standards, further American interventions in the internal affairs of other states and continued control over raw materials and sources of energy in developing countries, especially with the advent of a new era of economic competition between America and its allies. [sentence as received]

It pointed out that by saying that Iraq was not allowed to possess 20 percent of the world's oil reserves, Bush was trying to enact a new law and blatantly interfere in peoples' lives and rights. It confirmed that the policy Bush pursued would isolate American from the whole world.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that Bush was only fooling himself when he said that the majority of Arabs sided with him. It wondered if this was the case, then why he held President Husayn responsible for any attack on the American interests. [sentence as received]

The paper added that if Bush really imagined that the majority of Arabs supported his stance, he should agree on President Husayn's proposal and organizing a meeting between a joint working committee to be formed from the U.S. Congress and another from the Iraqi National Assembly with the aim of assessing data and facts. But it expressed confidence that Bush would reject this proposal, for he expected the results in advance.

It concluded that the fact which Bush could not hide is that all Arabs and Moslems have decided to stand in one trench with the Iraqis in the battle against the wrong, evil and atheism.

Editorial Says Nation 'Ready' for Confrontation

JN2909073790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq, which is strong with its lofty people and valiant army, will neither kneel nor give in. If fighting is imposed on Iraq, it will be fully ready for the confrontation and has full confidence that the victory of God and the believers will make it wage the battle with its complete requirements to defeat the invaders and aggressors. In today's editorial under the headline "We Raised the Banner of Justice To Remain High," the paper adds: President Saddam Husayn's message to the American people has placed all matters and facts in their normal position, confirming that Iraq seeks peace and rejects war and at the same time rejects threats.

AL-QADISIYAH declares that Iraq will not allow any party to dictate unjust conditions on us, to interfere in our internal affairs, or to brandish military invasion, armies, and weapons imagining that this might scare us or make us submit to positions that we reject. The paper adds that if Bush were concerned—as he claims—about implementing international resolutions, why is he putting all his military, political, and media weight against Iraq and refusing any discussion about or linkage between the events in the Arabian Gulf incidents and the deteriorating situation in the occupied territory in Palestine?

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Bush, who claimed that his invasion of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] aims at defending Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi attack is among the first to know that this is absolutely incorrect and that Iraq was not thinking about this in the first place, not out of fear of Bush and his threats, but because it does not want this situation.

The paper says that what happened with regard to Kuwait is a special case that has its own historical and objective reasons; it is a purely internal matter that concerns Iraq and the Arab nation basically. Neither the United States nor others have anything to do with this.

Civilians To Receive Gas Masks

Trial Program Successful

TA0110152990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] After a successful distribution of protective kits in Shelomi in the north and in the Morasha neighborhood of Ramat Hasharon, a decision has been made to expand distribution of these kits to the civilian population of Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reports that the distribution will be made in stages and will take a long time. Next week the kits will be distributed in three settlements, and later the distribution will include additional regions.

The spokesman also reported that the defense establishment has protective kits for all citizens of Israel. At the same time, the defense establishment has begun procuring protective kits for the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

The distribution of the protective kits is in line with earlier cabinet resolutions. The defense establishment emphasizes that the distribution of the gas masks does not signify a shift to a state of emergency. The protective kits are being sent to the homes of civilians to shorten the distribution time, should the need for that arise. The kits will be handed over to the public in sealed packages and must not be opened, the IDF spokesman emphasized. Instructions for their use will be given only when necessary. If the situation warrants, the defense establishment will shift to speedy distribution of the kits. Additional details on the distribution procedures will be given in the next few days.

Government sources in Jerusalem said this evening that the decision to distribute the gas masks does not indicate that there has been any change in the assessment of the situation. The prevailing assessment is that the chances of a gas attack on civilians are slim. Our political correspondent Arye Golan was told that the distribution of the protective kits should not be interpreted as heralding a move to a state of emergency.

IDF To Poll Public on Masks

TA0210103290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Oct p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Starting today, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will monitor the public's reaction to the announcement of the distribution of NBC [nuclear, biological, and chemical] kits. The IDF will employ public opinion surveys to achieve this end. The polls will be conducted by the IDF's behavioral science department in conjunction with a civilian firm, and the data routinely collected in this way will serve the "public information forum" which was set up by the IDF for this purpose and which is headed by Brigadier General Nahman Shay, the IDF spokesman said.

A senior military official reported yesterday that the general staff has "contingency plans" for a speedier distribution of gas masks if this is warranted in the event of public misconduct or unnecessary panic. "We have prepared a plan for this possibility as well, but we expect responsible behavior," the senior source reported.

Army sources revealed that the results of two public opinion polls recently conducted on the issue of gas mask distribution showed that a majority of the public, over 60 percent, reacted calmly and expressed complete confidence in the Army's decisions on if, when, and how to distribute the masks.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 2 October in a report on pages A1 and A2 by 'Immanu'el Rosen and Ran Degoni adds that "Senior IDF sources asserted yesterday that the decision to distribute the kits was greatly influenced by 'the pressures exerted by the public, and especially by the political echelon. The decision to distribute the masks was unavoidable, even though there has been no change in the situational analysis that the probability of an Iraqi chemical attack is extremely slim.'"]

Arabs Must Buy Masks

TA0210074790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will receive gas masks or, to be more precise, will have to pay for them. [A report by Joshua Brilliant on pages 1 and 10 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 2 October notes that "East Jerusalem residents will receive the gas masks."] The defense establishment has begun purchasing gas masks for the inhabitants of the territories. Udi Segal reports:

The Palestinians were not moved by the new decision to distribute gas masks. Even at the height of the panic in Israel over a possible gas attack, most inhabitants of the territories did not give too much thought to means of protection. Today, too, most of them do not believe that Iraq will attack them, either out of some fatalistic faith in Saddam Husayn or ignorance.

The defense establishment announced yesterday that it has kits for all Israeli citizens. At the same time, it has begun purchasing protection kits for the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

IDF spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay explained that the inhabitants of the territories will have to pay for the gas masks out of their own pockets, noting that Israeli citizens have paid for the kits through their national insurance payments. Leaders in the territories say that Israel is responsible for everybody and reject this arrangement. [passage omitted]

Jamil al-Tarifi, the deputy mayor of al-Birah, said: I do not think that if there is an attack on Jerusalem it will be any different from an attack on Ramallah, Nabulus, or anywhere else. It is not fair; first, because the Israeli Government must take responsibility for the people residing in the territories; second, because Palestinians pay all sorts of taxes, perhaps even more than Israel's citizens.

The Civil Administration has begun preparing for the new situation, but the inhabitants do not yet know the price of the protection kits, where they will be able to purchase them, or how they will be instructed in their use in case of need.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 2 October carries a report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe who notes that "the distribution of gas masks in Israel was coordinated with the U.S. Administration. A reassuring message also was relayed to the Arab confrontation states, including Iraq."]

Adviser Denies Contacts With Saddam Husayn

TA0210054290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Interviewed on French television last night, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said that Israel and Iraq have been holding secret contacts. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that he does not know what Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is talking about. Pazner added that there have been no contacts or attempts to hold contacts with Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn.

Levi Speech Calls For End to State of War

TA0110183990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has suggested to the UN Assembly in New York that all the countries in the Middle East declare an end to their state of war with Israel. At the same time, he said, there should be a regional conference for the banning of chemical weapons. He said Israel offers its neighbors cooperation in solving regional poverty. Jonathan Schachter reports from the United Nations:

In his 29-minute speech to the General Assembly, which he delivered in French, Foreign Minister Levi contrasted the thawing of hostilities between the East and West with the continuing violence and conflict in the Middle East. He noted that for many years the nations of the world assisted in the military buildup of Iraq in the hope of containing Khomeyni's Iran, but instead inadvertently created a horrific monster. Israel's 1981 air strike on the Iraqi nuclear reactor failed to elicit international understanding at the time, but today, says Levi, the world has been made aware that the far-reaching military arm of Israel was guided by a far-sighted political outlook. The condition of many countries and the state of humanity as a whole would have been vastly different, he said, had Saddam Husayn possessed a nuclear bomb. At this very moment, said Levi, the Iraqi dictator once again threatens to destroy Israel, this time in revenge for Security Council resolutions.

[Begin recording of unidentified interpreter of Levi's remarks] The Iraqi ruler cocks a gun at Israel's head, demanding to extricate himself from the wrath of international law. The free world should know that Israel will not sacrifice its security at the price of UN decisions aimed at safeguarding their economic well-being and freedom. Israel will know how to defend itself if attacked and its response will be harsh and painful. [end recording]

Turning to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Levi appealed to all Arab governments still at war with Israel to join in direct negotiations, coupled with a process of confidence-building measures that would induce a gradual reduction in tensions and hostility, and the cessation of belligerency and terror. He called once again for a Middle Eastern conference to free the region of chemical weapons, and he extended an offer of full cooperation with Israel's neighbors in the areas of agriculture, health, energy, industry, and technological development.

The foreign minister added the willingness on the part of the Arab states to participate in such a process will help to advance the solution to the Palestinian problem, the chief obstacle to which, he said, has been and remains the PLO.

Meets Egyptian Minister

TA0210061890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Egypt believes the Gulf crisis should not be linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We should proceed to solve the Palestinian problem with a fresh mind only after the Gulf crisis has been settled. These remarks were made last night by Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, in a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levi in New York. 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Egypt does not link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Notwithstanding the fact that Egypt believes both conflicts share a common denominator—acquisition of territory by force—Ghali said we should wait for the Gulf crisis to be settled, and only then proceed to start a new process.

[Ghali, in English] First of all, you have to wait until the end of this crisis then we will begin a new process and hold discussions.

[Ben-'Ami] And what if Israel is attacked by Iraq, we asked Ghali? How will Egypt react?

[Ghali, in English] We will respect the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council.

[Ben-'Ami translates the above and continues] Whatever these resolutions may be, Egypt will comply with them, Ghali said.

Ghali told Foreign Minister Levi that, in his opinion, the chances of a peaceful settlement of the crisis within a pan-Arab context are limited.

As for the Palestinian issue, Ghali said: We pursued all possible avenues to a solution, both through President Mubarak's 10-point plan and other means, but we failed. Obviously, we will not take any action now to settle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict so as not to give Saddam a bonus, Ghali said. Once this crisis has been solved we will again take up the issue with a fresh mind. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Urged To 'Throw Away' Demand for Guarantees

TA0110112990 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Oct 90 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpt] "As far as we are concerned, it would be better if you threw that paper away," Foreign Minister David Levi told U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in their meeting last week in which they discussed a series of U.S. demands from Israel with regard to guarantees for a $400-million loan. Levi unequivocally told Baker that the Israeli Government "has no plans to establish settlements," but Baker replied that such a commitment was not sufficient to grant the guarantees.

An excerpt of the minutes of the Baker-Levi session dealing with their discussion about the guarantees reached Jerusalem yesterday. The picture emerging from the minutes is one of a tense encounter, ultimately resolved by establishing a joint formulating team consisting of Eytan Ben-Tzur, assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry, and Dennis Ross, Baker's aide for policy planning. It emerged in the talks that the United States has five or six demands for the Israeli Government—spelled out in the paper which Levi proposed to "throw away"—including a demand to curtail incentives and inducements for immigrants, except for those settling within the boundaries of the Green Line; periodic presentation and advance notice to the U.S. Administration of plans to build settlements; and a detailed breakdown of budgetary allocations to the territories by the various ministries.

At some point, Levi asked Baker point-blank whether the U.S. conditions should be seen as "coercion" for getting the guarantees, or as "information" sought by the United States. Baker avoided a direct reply and said that he "must prove to people" that Israel is not transferring funds available as a result of the $400-million loan to the territories.

Baker added that the White House "demands more" than the terms he discussed with Levi. In this context, he mentioned that President Bush had been "surprised" by the stance concerning the settlements voiced by Defense Minister Moshe Arens upon his return to Israel after their meeting the previous week. "When Arens returned to Israel we were surprised," Baker said, "and we do not want to be surprised. We do not want to learn about your plans from the press."

Levi replied that technically the state budget is not divided into geographical regions and that, consequently, he could not comply with Baker's demand for a detailed breakdown of the money earmarked for the settlements. As a matter of principle, Levi said, Israel cannot subject its policy in the territories to the "prior approval" of the United States. "As far as we are concerned, it would be better if you threw that paper away," he said. It should be pointed out that last night the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office were not sure about what the aforementioned six-condition "paper" included or the state of the negotiations between Ben-Tzur and Ross. It should also be noted that the minutes arriving in Jerusalem were only excerpts and did not include the part in which Baker voiced his anger at Defense Minister Moshe Arens. [passage omitted]

[A report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef on page A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 1 October notes that the aforementioned report came in a "top secret cable about the Levi-Baker meeting sent to Jerusalem by Ambassador Moshe Arad." Bar-Yosef notes that the cable makes no mention whatsoever of a promise whereby "if Israel were attacked by Iraq the United States would react accordingly."]

Gaza Strip Assassinations Increase

TA0110121290 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Oct 90 p 4

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpts] The wave of assassinations in the Gaza Strip has surged recently. Seven locals were murdered in the last three days, some of them because they were suspected of collaborating with Israel. [passage omitted]

Local gangs in the Gaza Strip murdered 13 locals in September, seven in Rafah. During the same period, only one local was killed by Israeli Army gunfire.

Since the beginning of the intifadah, 298 Arabs were murdered by other Arabs, and 928 were wounded in assassination attempts. Another 31 Palestinians were assassinated in various lockup installations.

Senior Fatah Commander Remanded to Custody

TA0110155790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] This morning the Lod Military Court ordered that Fayid Faqir Fannuna [name as heard], the most senior commander of the Fatah terror organization Israel has ever captured, be remanded to custody until the end of all legal proceedings against him. The man has been held in Israel since February 1990, but the indictment includes no information on where and how he was captured. Fannuna underwent high-level military training in Egypt, Romania, and Yugoslavia, and was in command of the Fatah Katyusha Battalion during the war in Lebanon.

IDF Denies Harassing Schools in Territories

TA0110122890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman yesterday lashed out at the report issued by the human rights organization Betzelem accusing the IDF of harassing the educational system in the territories. The communique issued by the IDF spokesman states that Betzelem's report is fraught with inaccuracies and provides a distorted picture by holding the security establishment exclusively responsible for the disruption of studies in the territories, whereas in fact it was the PLO, the Hamas Islamic resistance movement, and the leadership of the intifadah which have made cynical and immoral use of children and educational institutions, and turned the schools into a hotbed of violence and the main arena of their struggle.

"Throughout the intifadah, children have been sent to the front lines of fire to face IDF troops," the IDF spokesman' communique notes. It goes on to say that despite the fact that leaders of the intifadah recognize the importance of education they have tried to involve students in the violent activities.

The spokesman says that the report fails to mention the violent incidents in schools in the territories for which the uprising's leaders were responsible, and the consequent serious damage inflicted on teachers, students, and schools.

The spokesman goes on to detail incidents in which masked individuals stabbed a school principal and murdered a teacher in front of his students in the village of Biddiya. The spokesman remarks that the timing chosen by Betzelem to issue its report—the beginning of the new school year—is particularly astonishing.

[A report by Avi Bnayahu on page 6 of the same paper notes that defense sources are cautioning that the Civil Administration's health system in the territories is increasingly being harassed. This harassment includes "physical attacks on medical staff, vandalizing equipment, stealing medicine, and pelting ambulances with stones. Because of the rigorous orders restricting the entry of soldiers onto the premises, hospitals are used as hiding places for wanted men." The sources note that "this terror is meant to weed suspected collaborators out of the system, infiltrate it with PLO supporters, and take over the hospitals." They go on to say that the system is used to provide medical treatment to people who are not insured. "In many instances, people killed or injured in work or domestic accidents are taken to government hospitals in order to extort for the PLO money earmarked for the victims of the intifadah."]

Bethlehem University Reopens in Territories

TA0210093190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Bethlehem University reopened this morning, becoming the first university to reopen in the territories after an interval of two and one-half years, during which universities were closed down due to the intifadah. Our correspondent Udi Segal reports that so far 16 colleges and all schools have reopened. Universities, with the exception of Bethlehem University, remain closed.

Imam Says Palestinians Against Iraqi Occupation

TA3009122890

[Editorial report] Writing on page 8 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 30 September, Jon Immanuel reports: "In Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque on Friday, Fu'ad Abu-Zayd, an imam from Janin, delivered a sermon to an estimated 20,000 worshippers, proclaiming that Palestinians feel emotionally opposed to the U.S. presence in the Gulf and support Arab and Islamic unity.

"Nevertheless, he continued, 'We Palestinians are against the occupation by Iraqi forces of Kuwait.' Iraq's invasion did not enhance Arab unity, he said, because 'we have not yet reached the appropriate time or spiritual level for uniting the Arab world.'

"Abu-Zayd went on to condemn the United States and said it had 'occupied' the UN Security Council and forced it to do its bidding.

"Immediately after the prayers, thousands of leaflets were distributed outside the mosque by the radical Islamic Jihad, calling on Iran and Iraq to unify their armies and march 'to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine.'"

The report adds: "The army, using bulldozers, closed off the entrances to 10 villages around Janin yesterday with soil and rock, Palestinian sources said."

The report also states: "A firebomb was thrown at a Border Police post in the center on Ramallah. No damage was caused, the Army said."

Jerusalem Mufti's Response

TA0110151790 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Oct 90 p 1

[Excerpts] The mufti of Jerusalem, Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami; the assistant director general of the Awqaf Ministry; the shari'a [Islamic law] judges; and preachers at al-Aqsa Mosque issued the following statement yesterday: [passage omitted]

1. The Friday sermons delivered by the preacher [Fu'ad Abu-Zayd, who delivered a sermon in the al-Aqsa Mosque on 28 September] conforms with shari'a laws.

2. Concerning that part of the sermon about the fraternal Kuwaiti people, it should not be understood that a

comparison was being made between the entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwaiti territory and the Israeli occupation, nor can there be any sort of comparison at all. The Iraqi Army is a Muslim army that entered into a Muslim land, while here a non-Muslim army occupied a Muslim land.

3. The preacher himself explained at the end of the sermon, as the worshipers heard, quote: "We support Iraq, the symbol of confrontation to the challenge of foreigners." This is our response to some people who misunderstood the preacher's remarks.

4. We urge all brother worshipers and news media not to hurry and publish things that may cause confusion. In such cases, they should refer to the relative department, the Awqaf, as well as to scholars.

5. We affirm the statement by the al-Aqsa Mosque preacher, Shaykh Muhammad Fu'ad Abu-Zayd, that we support Iraq, the symbol of confrontation to the challenge of foreigners, who are occupying the land of Muslims and their sanctities. We beseech Almighty God to spare our Muslim Palestinian people and our Muslim nation from discord, unite the word of Muslims, and render us victorious over the infidels.

Nearly 20,000 Immigrants Arrive in September

TA0210103490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Excerpt] Almost 20,000 immigrants arrived here last month, the Absorption Ministry announced yesterday.

That is more than in any month since the massive immigration during the first four years of the state.

The monthly rate will soon hit 30,000, Absorption Minister Yitzaq Peretz said earlier this week.

Of the 19,505 immigrants who arrived, 18,725 were from the Soviet Union. September's total brings the number of immigrants this year to 113,385, of whom 101,736 were from the USSR. [passage omitted]

Goverments Slow Ethiopian Jewish Immigration

TA0210055690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Report by Jonathan Shachter from New York]

[Text] Following his meeting with Foreign Minister Levi, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tesfaye Dinka told the Voice of Israel that the flow of Ethiopian Jews had not been cut, but rather was slowed down because non-Jews were also trying to leave for Israel.

[Begin Dinka recording] We did not cut. What happened is that both sides saw that there were problems in the kind of people going through the checking system. That some non-Jews, many non-Jews, were being processed because of the system not being tight enough. Both sides agreed to tighten it. We are in the process of tightening, and then it would go back...I am sure [changes thought]. Right now they are in the process of going back. [end recording]

I pressed him on just which country had asked that the flow of Jews from Ethiopia be slowed until the problems in the system, as he put it, were tightened up. From both was his response. We understood that there were some loose ends, we wanted to straighten it. Dinka said he is not yet satisfied with the numbers of Ethiopian Jews that are leaving for Israel but his government is working on improving the numbers. I can assure you, he said, that the two governments are in complete understanding. There is no misunderstanding between the two governments. It is just procedural matters. I asked the foreign minister if there were any other medical problems being faced by the Jews in Addis Ababa. His answer was, quote: "I was not aware that there were any particular medical difficulties. You know people in our country are at a very low level of development, he said, adding that the Ethiopian Jews did not have any particular problems other than the problems that the average Ethiopian has.

Arens Hospitalized for Prostate Operation

TA0110121590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens was hospitalized in Tel Hashomer Hospital today for a prostate operation. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the operation will take place tomorrow morning and was scheduled in advance.

Baghdad Reports Egypt Embassy 'Spying' for U.S.

JN0110175090 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 90 p 2

["Exclusive" report: "The Staff of Husni's Embassy in Jordan Spy for the United States"]

[Text] Amman—AL-QADISIYAH has learned from Arab sources in the Jordanian capital that the embassy of Husni David's [as published] regime in the Jordanian capital is playing a spying role against the sons of the Jordanian Arab people who have denounced the U.S. invasion of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and those who were prompted by their genuine Arab ethics to collect baby formula and medicines and send them to Iraq.

These sources said that the staff of Husni's embassy write down the names of the Arab citizens who demonstrate against the invasion. They also write down the license plate numbers of the trucks participating in the charity convoys that transport Jordanian donations to their Iraqi brothers, so that these lists with the names and numbers can be passed on to the U.S. Embassy in the Jordanian capital.

'Administrative Measure' To Counter Saudi Move

JN0110184790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] In response to a question by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on the reported closure of borders to trucks coming into the [Hashemite] Kingdom, Dr. Mahdi al-Farhan, director general of the Customs Department, said no one ordered the closure of borders to anyone. All that has happened, he added, is that a local administrative measure was taken to deal with the situation resulting from the Saudi border officials' refusal to permit a large number of trucks to cross the border into Saudi territory, a matter that created a situation dictating that this local measure be taken until the issue is clarified through contacts by the competent authorities.

King Receives Message From Yemen's Salih

JN2609143890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today received a message from his brother His Excellency President of the Republic of Yemen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The message deals with the Gulf crisis and the Arab efforts under way to reach a political solution within an Arab framework.

The message was conveyed by Hasan al-Lawzi, Yemeni culture minister, during his meeting with his majesty at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. The audience was attended by his excellency the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Hasan Warns Against Completely Isolating Baghdad

PM2709110090 Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Sep 90 p 4

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Irina de Chikoff; place, date not given]

[Text] Amman—[De Chikoff] Saudi Arabia, which has just adopted retaliatory measures against the Kingdom, accuses Jordan of being pro-Iraqi. Your Highness, how do you reply to these criticisms?

[Hasan] Saudi Arabia sees things in black and white: Those who are not with the Saudis are against them. Jordan is subject to economic and political pressures. What do they want? Do they want to isolate the government from the people, whose pro-Iraqi feelings are well known and are based on the Arab proverb which says that "my enemy's enemy is my friend"? For the Jordanian people, Israel remains the prime enemy, and Iraq, which opposes Zionist imperialism, can only be a friend.

Why does Saudi Arabia cut off oil supplies to Jordan at the very time when a curfew has been introduced in the Gaza Strip? Who wants the country's destruction?

[De Chikoff] You are criticized for still receiving Iraqi oil.

[Hasan] But without this oil—which is supplied to us in repayment for the debt to us that Baghdad contracted during the Iran-Iraq war—we could not even drink a glass of water! Do they want us to die simply in order to establish a Palestinian homeland in Jordan?

There is talk of traffic which is skirting the embargo, supplying goods from Lebanon to Iraq via Jordan. Look at the map. If there is any traffic, it also passes through Syria. But nobody talks about that. Why not?

[De Chikoff] In the Gulf conflict, in which Iraq is set against the international community, in which camp does Jordan stand?

[Hasan] Jordan is, and remains, on the side of peace. We have never altered our stance. Since the start of the crisis we have appealed for a peaceful solution. We are not the agents of the United States or of Iraq. We have clearly stated that we opposed the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. We recognize the al-Sabah family as the only legitimate one in the emirate [sentence as published]. Except in the case of oil, we implement all the UN resolutions, but we have opposed a militarization of the region. We recognized Saudi Arabia's right to appeal to the United States to defend its integrity and sovereignty, but we do not believe that an attack on Iraq from Saudi Arabia is justified.

[De Chikoff] Even if diplomacy fails?

[Hasan] People say that an Arab solution is no longer credible, that it was stillborn. We believe that it is still possible, and above all desirable. Because we adhere to this line, people are trying to punish Jordan. At the same time, the trend is toward an outright Greek tragedy—a confrontation. We know what war means: a disaster, and the rise of forms of extremism throughout the Arab world.

[De Chikoff] Does the Rabat summit justify your entertaining new hopes?

[Hasan] There are signs. But I cannot talk about them. You know, sometimes I think that a tragedy lies just around the corner, and sometimes I regain confidence.

[De Chikoff] Your Highness, do you not consider Saddam Husayn a dangerous man?

[Hasan] Anyone who is too impulsive and who acts unilaterally can be dangerous. I am not inclined to pin hopes on an individual, whomever, because I believe too much in institutions. I have often been asked, as has his majesty the king, whether we trust Saddam Husayn. That is the wrong question.

The question is whether he can be persuaded to negotiate. As far as I am concerned, the main danger lies in completely isolating Iraq. If you are encircled and everyone refuses to speak to you any more, you could turn from a lunatic into a paranoid, and from that... This is why Jordan wants to act as Iraq's open window onto the world.

[De Chikoff] Is this not precisely why you are criticized by Saudi Arabia and the Arab countries that have sided with the West?

[Hasan] Perhaps. But we will adhere to our line, which is not to break off the dialogue. All the countries involved, and all tendencies and currents of thinking, must be able to express themselves. We do not want the establishment in the region of another colonial order whose aim is to divide us. Despite the criticisms, we will not change our minds.

[De Chikoff] Are you disappointed, hurt, or surprised by the criticisms made of Jordan?

[Hasan] Certainly disappointed. People do not understand us because they refuse to understand us. I always wonder about the intentions of the United States and its allies regarding Jordan. The effects of the sanctions are felt more strongly here than in Iraq. But this does not seem to be enough. By completely ignoring our public opinion and the country's vital interests, we are simply being driven toward suicide.

Crown Prince Hasan's Activities in New York

Meets With Senate Committee

JN2809093690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] In the U.S. capital yesterday, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with the chairman and members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. They undertook a general review of the Gulf crisis and its ramifications. His highness the crown prince explained to them Jordan's stance and its efforts in pursuit of a peaceful Arab-based resolution of the crisis. His highness also explained the economic hardship experienced by Jordan as a result of its compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 661, emphasizing Jordan's abidance by UN resolutions. His highness stressed the need to give priority to peaceful approaches to a solution to the crisis between brothers in Iraq and Kuwait, and the importance of promoting local solutions to all the problems of the region so as to ensure stability and security for all the states there. Attending the meeting was Jordan's ambassador in Washington and members of the accompanying delegation.

Meanwhile, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has received India's foreign minister, who heads his country's delegation to the current UN General Assembly session, to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Meets With Congressmen

JN2809125790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., with the chairman and members of the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives. His highness explained Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis and its efforts to bring about a peaceful solution based on international legitimacy and within the bounds of the Arab family. His highness referred to Paragraph 3 of Security Council Resolution No. 660, which calls for direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to solve their dispute. The resolution also supports Arab League efforts in this respect, he noted.

His highness also met at the House building with Representative Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Forces Committee; Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee for the Middle East and Europe; and Representative David Obey, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee. His highness reviewed the developments of the Gulf crisis and Jordan's policy toward them. He also explained Jordan's current economic problems due its observance of Security Council Resolution 661. His highness called for speedy efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and pointed out the importance of comprehensive solutions to all conflicts in the region. The two meetings were attended by the minister of industry and trade and the Jordanian ambassador in Washington.

Discusses Crisis With Turkey's Ozal

JN2909171290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] In New York last night, Turkey's President Turgut Ozal received at his residence [as heard] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan to discuss developments in the Gulf crisis. His highness briefed the Turkish president on Jordan's efforts to promote a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis.

His highness explained the economic hardships Jordan is facing in common with Turkey as a consequence of its compliance with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. He also pointed to the burden carried by Jordan in accommodating arrivals from Iraq and Kuwait. His highness and the Turkish president also talked about coordinating moves by the states hosting arrivals with a view to easing the strain on Jordan as it copes with massive numbers. Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Addresses Strategic Studies Center

JN2909215090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Passages by Crown Prince Hasan are in English]

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan has addressed the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on the Gulf crisis and its dimensions. Nicholas Hanna, the radio and television man in Washington, has the following report:

[Begin recording] [Hanna] His highness began his speech by saying that the Gulf crisis could benefit from a series of attempts to defuse it and arrest its escalation, if we are to avert an inevitable war. On Jordan's stance on the crisis, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan said:

[Hasan] Jordan does not recognize the annexation of Kuwait any more than it has supported military occupation in any number of United Nations resolutions applicable to the Middle East and beyond.

[Hanna] His highness stressed the need for the Arabs to have a political or military role, should the need arise, in resolving the crisis. Such a role, he added, will open an opportunity for successful efforts to establish peace. In this regard he pointed out that in the initial stages of the crisis, that is prior to the deployment of foreign forces, Jordan offered to send Jordanian units as part of an Arab force. He added that the time for that is now past, and with the foreign military buildup in the region a physical reality, the possibility exists for some mistake or misunderstanding and devastating consequences for the region and the world.

[Hasan] The United Nations Charter requires that international disputes shall be settled peacefully so that international peace and security are not endangered. His majesty the king has been unremitting in his efforts to find a peaceful solution consistent with the principles and Charter of the United Nations, Security Council resolutions, and the Arab League. While the king understands the international concern about recent events, he believes that the primary responsibility for finding a peaceful solutions lies, at the end of the day, within the region.

I wonder, ladies and gentlemen, if the embargo includes a total embargo on dialogue. As I look at (?airwaves) diplomacy, I ask myself the question: Are the leaders talking to each other, or at each other? Are they communicating, or are they ships passing in the dark? And I am not referring here to the quality of Iraqi Television's translations of idiom and language. But I do think that there is a basic problem—that we are set on this tunnel and almost remorselessly moving toward a complex situation. I don't want to comment in detail on the petroleum price situation, but I think that the panic and the hoarding at a time when we are told there is a situation of international glut is a contradiction. And I am afraid that the soaring prices cannot be held or justified to be held for a long period of time without something breaking. And my hope is that what breaks is not hostilities in the region.

[Hanna] After his highness explained the effect of the Gulf crisis on Jordan's economy, he said the citizen in Jordan is now asking if, driven by a desire to see the embargo imposed on Iraq enforced, the world expects Jordan to commit economic suicide.

[Hasan] In carrying out the measures the Security Council has ordered, Jordan has adhered fully to sanctions—so fully indeed that today we stand to face the loss, effectively, of 50 percent of our gross national product, of two-thirds of our GDP. We have today over 20 percent unemployment, and we are facing, in addition to that, this enormous wave of evacuees out of Kuwait and Iraq, of whom over 620,000 have moved through Jordan—the equivalent of more than 20 percent of our population. And I think the feeling in terms of the Jordanian street and popular perception is: Is it expected in a situation of the application of sanctions and embargo that Jordan commits economic hara-kiri? Are we expected to commit economic suicide?

[Hanna] He said the Middle East needs a process to ensure its security and stability and to reinforce human rights there, and that Arab states and non-Arab states must be involved in this effort. Also, the initiative for such a process must come from the region itself, provided good faith and cooperation are forthcoming from foreign nations. On the Palestinian question, his highness the crown prince said:

[Hasan] Jordan considers that peace in the area urgently requires recognition of the parallel principles, and requires recognition of the fact that unless we contain the possibilities of further strife and further conflict—and I refer to the other outstanding flashpoints, and in particular to the Palestinian problem—we will only be attempting to solve one problem to be faced on the morrow by another.

[Hanna] On criticisms of Jordan here and there on account of its stance on the Gulf crisis, his highness stressed that Jordan has all along called for invoking the same legal and legitimate principles that it has urged be applied in the case of Kuwait. [end recording]

Reportage on Crown Prince Hasan's Visit to UK

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For reportage on the visit by Crown Prince Hasan to the UK, including reports on his meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, please see the United Kingdom section of the 1 October West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Discusses Expulsions

JN2709093890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Sep 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Dr. Nasir al-Batayinah, Jordan's ambassador in Riyadh, will arrive in Amman today, Thursday, after he was recalled by the Jordanian Government to protest the Saudi Government's measures to close down the Jordanian military attache's office in Saudi Arabia and reduce the number of staff at our embassy in Riyadh and the Jordanian consulate in Jeddah.

In a telephone contact with AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-Batayinah said he will arrive in Amman today with the Jordanian Military Attache Brigadier General Qublan Mar'i. He said the number of people whom the Saudi Government has decided to expel is 24 diplomats and administrative staff, including 19 from the Jordanian Embassy in Riyadh and the labor attache, Mr. Riyadh al-Sarayrah, and that they were asked to leave the Saudi territories before 4 October. He added that only four employees remained in the Jordanian Embassy in Riyadh and five employees remained in the Jordanian Consulate in Jeddah.

In Amman, Saudi Embassy sources have said that the Saudi ambassador has not received any instructions from his country. They said he will not leave his post at the current time and that there will not be any reduction in the number of embassy staff.

In a related event, a responsible source at the Agricultural Marketing Corporation has said that Jordan's exports of fruit vegetables to the Gulf states have dropped by an average of 100,000 tonnes, as compared with the same period last year. The source said this drop is due to the fact that the countries in the Gulf that import our agricultural products have placed obstacles and hindered the travel of trucks across the borders. It was also due to the fact those trucks are delayed for long periods of time at the border posts for inspection. This measure, he said, has led to owners of the refrigerator trucks, which carry our agricultural produce to the Arabian Gulf states, refusing to transport products to those states in order to avoid the complications, delays, refusal to cross borders, and even detention facing the drivers of those trucks.

Answering a question on the future of the agricultural season and the possibility of exporting to the Gulf states, the source did not give any clear answer or any predictions and said only that export to the Gulf states is continuing.

PLO Envoy to Jordan Reviews Gulf Situation

JN3009212890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Sep 90 pp 18, 15

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Palestinian Ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim has revealed that some Arab states are seeking to create an alternative to the PLO for the Palestinians, a different representative that would support the U.S. occupation and back efforts for an imposed U.S. settlement. He added: They want us to fight on the side of the United States. But we would like to say that he who fights on the side of the Americans will not fight them in Jerusalem.

In a political seminar at al-Daffatayn [Sports] Club yesterday evening under the slogan "President Saddam Husayn's Initiative and Linking the Gulf Crisis and the Palestine question," al-Tayyib said that the PLO will not be neutral in the battle to establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. He declared that current developments provide a propitious opportunity that must be developed in favor of the Palestine question.

The Palestinian ambassador added: The Palestinian leadership agrees with the Iraqi leaders on the need to link the two issues; it offered a mechanism—tangible ideas—for the Iraqi initiative. These ideas concern four points presented to a number of Arab states and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, including the United States, the EEC Presidency, the SFRY in its capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, and the OAU chairmanship.

The Palestinian ambassador said that these four points are the following:

—Arrangements for a simultaneous withdrawal of troops.
—Withdrawal of foreign troops from the lands and waters of the Gulf states.
—Replacement of the troops withdrawing from these areas by Arab and international troops working under the UN umbrella.
—Immediate freeze of embargo resolutions against Iraq and their application to any party that rejects the aforementioned points.

The Palestinian ambassador added: Our duty as Arab states is to reject foreign intervention and to offer support for the Iraqi initiative and the ideas that might be added to it. He said further: The U.S.-backed Arab states are weakening our position and seek to escalate the situation to bring about an explosion. He also said: When they demand an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal, they do not only seek to weaken Iraq as a major power in the strategic balance in the region. By so doing, they also seek to thwart the efforts being made to attain a just and comprehensive settlement and promote a U.S.-Israeli settlement.

Al-Tayyib added: The first Iraqi initiative following the entry into Kuwait hit the heart of the matter when it linked the Gulf crisis to the Middle East conflict. That is why the United States, and Britain in particular, as well as some tools in the region, hastened to reject such a linkage. Al-Tayyib noted that when Iraq confronted the attempt to weaken it by bringing down oil prices, it did not target Kuwait as a country. Iraq only sought to thwart the U.S. scheme to weaken it and arrange the situation in favor of a U.S. settlement, al-Tayyib said.

The Palestinian ambassador said that they are aware that Iraq will restore the regional balance. He stated that this will affect the settlement to be attained, particularly considering that the PLO maintains warm ties with Iraq. This means that a just Arab and Palestinian settlement would be brought about, he noted.

The ambassador went on to say: Iraq had been punished with lower oil prices so that it could not support the PLO and enhance the strategic parity it had achieved in the region. He said that they want neither a powerful Iraq nor a PLO that is capable of "shuffling" the U.S. arrangements which they prepared many years ago.

Al-Tayyib referred in his political presentation to what had happened during the deliberations of the Baghdad summit and said: Before the convocation of the summit, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat visited an Arab capital whose president told him: "The PLO has no choice but to accept the second part of the Camp David accords." The ambassador remarked: Of course, we did not discuss this proposal.

The ambassador went on to say: Two conceptions of pan-Arab security emerged at the Baghdad summit. Certain parties classified the United States as friendly, whereas many others asserted that it was the archenemy. He said that the U.S. Administration wanted a clear division of forces at the summit. That is why it sent a list of proscribed subjects which some Arabs espoused as if this had been their own position, al-Tayyib said.

Concluding his presentation, al-Tayyib said: When resolutions opposing U.S. wishes were passed, we were punished with the promotion of a proposition that a Palestinian delegation from inside the occupied territories neither named by the PLO nor having the endorsement of Yasir 'Arafat should be formed. He went on to say that the suspension of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was not caused by the PLO's failure to condemn the beach operation but rather by the PLO's rejection of the U.S. settlement and also by the issuance of a resolution [at the Baghdad summit] opposing what the United States wanted.

Mufti Says Islamic Nation Target of Buildup

JN3009200490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Text] His majesty the king today patronized a major ceremony organized by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs on the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Addressing the ceremony, the grand mufti of the Kingdom said the Muslim nation was passing through a grave era with Arabs and Muslims facing paramount hardship. He said the Islamic nation was the main target of the military buildup in the Arabian Peninsula, birthplace of Prophet Muhammad and home to the holiest Islamic shrines. He commended his majesty's efforts to fend off danger from the Arab and Muslim nation.

Editorial Views Bush Progress Toward Settlement

JN0210091990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Oct 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Respect for International Legitimacy Comes When All of its Resolutions Are Respected"]

[Text] The Gulf crisis enters its third month today. Despite the continued buildup of hostile troops in the Arabian Gulf region, and the threats of aggression and destruction, what is indisputable is Washington's conviction that any military action would result in suicide for the aggressor and real destruction of all colonial interests in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world. If we were to exclude Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Zionist entity, and an Arab president, who are inciting Washington to commit folly and expressing their desire for a strike against Iraq, other parties are moving from intransigence to talk of a political settlement.

Their incitement is prompted by the fears of the Zionist enemy regarding an Arab resurgence, and by British fears concerning German unification, which will go into effect tomorrow. It is also caused by British fears of the leading role that a united Germany, along with France, will play in leading the EC. However, the instigation and enthusiasm in this regard shown by the president of a fraternal country are incomprehensible—the instigation and enthusiasm on his part to threaten to attack in the north, south, and west. As for the east, there is the Zionist entity, which does not represent a current or potential enemy as far as he is concerned.

Britain has not denied a statement quoting one of its senior military officials as saying that Britain is ready to attack Iraq with atomic weapons, and that it does not only demand an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, but also that Iraq should be punished and forced to pay reparations to Kuwait. Nonetheless, the British foreign secretary was not even embarrassed to declare that Britain does not interfere in the internal affairs of any country. If all Britain were to be offered for sale, its price would not be sufficient to compensate the states and peoples on which British colonial rule has inflicted destructive harm. It is sufficient here to refer to the Palestinian Arab people, whose land Britain expropriated and gave to Zionism as if it were a British governorate.

The Zionist entity has a vested interest in an attack against Iraq. That is why it is doing its best to embroil the United States and its allies in a suicidal operation, deluding itself that it will bring it great gains, even though it is well aware that it will not be spared the destruction and devastation that will engulf the region if the opposing camp were to embark on an adventure.

Yesterday, President Bush took a small step that brought him closer to efforts to attain a political settlement, and declared that a resolution of the Gulf crisis would provide an opportunity for resolving all regional crises. This needs no confirmation on our part. It is unacceptable for us to believe that Iraq, its nation, and the Islamic world, which have attained a high level of awareness can retreat from the Iraqi initiative announced on 12 August. If President Bush desires a political settlement of the Gulf crisis and all other regional problems, efforts must be made to implement all UN resolutions—resolutions passed 20 or 40 years ago as well as those passed less than two months ago. Otherwise, the Arabs would be forced to confront invasion and aggression with holy war—whose consequences would be no worse than our current situation, or than the humiliation, subjugation, or disgrace that the enemies want to subject us to.

Paper Warns Bush of Consequences of First Strike

JN2409183590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "First Strike, Greatest Crime"]

[Text] President Bush discarded the veil behind which he has long hid his administration's intentions when he announced yesterday that he does not rule out the possibility that the United States might deal the first strike against Iraq. With this proclamation, President Bush has reneged on his repeated assertion that Washington would not strike first in the Gulf crisis!

Thus, the United States has revealed its real face. There is no more room for doubt with regard to its aggressive intentions and their grave dangers. Although Washington can make the first strike, it will never be able to escape from its consequences, whether in the region or in the rest of the world. Washington will not be able to control the hell that is bound to break out as a result of this strike. This hell is also bound to consume U.S. interests.

By his proclamation, President Bush is gambling not only with his political future, but also with the future of the United States as a superpower and the interests of his allies for many years to come. He is also gambling with the stability of the entire world. Therefore, the U.S. President is urged to act wisely and note that the first blow he is brandishing will be the greatest crime committed against humanity in the current decade of the twentieth century. The human race will not forgive him for sparking off a murderous war that it does not need. In fact, it is in their interest to avoid this war. Those who truly believe in international legitimacy will never forget that Bush used it falsely as a pretext and as a tool of destruction instead of employing it as a mechanism for establishing peace and stability. Those who wish a noble and civilized future for our planet will record that Bush's threat to strike is in fact an evil threat against human civilization and all sacrosanct values.

The first strike Bush is threatening is bound to lead to a bigger strike that will reach the United States as a result of the President's enthusiasm. The lesson is not to be drawn from the strike, but rather from the consequences.

Here are the American people listening to their President. Here are his soldiers and their families listening to him. Hence, we are calling on all of them to stop Bush from committing a crime that can never be rectified. Here we are calling on them and informing them, and may God be our witness.

Bush Said Trying To Shift War Responsibility

JN3009135290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Man Who Turned His Back on Peace"]

[Text] In a new gesture of violence, the White House national security adviser has stated that the U.S. President might undertake efforts at the Security Council for the issuance of a resolution permitting the use of force against Iraq. This gesture indicates that the U.S. Administration is concerned with giving an international character to the armed aggression it is contemplating against Iraq, so that this aggression might take place under the cover of the banner of the United Nations itself. This approach means that Washington wants to escape the responsibility that must entail from aggression, and which generations all over the world will undoubtedly curse those to whom it is attached. For this reason, Washington thought it better to implicate the international family, represented by the United Nations, and to make it bear the blame before the present and future generations. It is no secret that this attempt to implicate the United Nations sought by the U.S. President will do away with the status and reputation left for the United Nations. It will also provide evidence that the Security Council has been dwarfed and transformed into a mere U.S. mechanism. Therefore, the international family is asked to save its organization from imperialist hegemony and not to tarnish its flag and use it as a cover for a dangerous aggression whose effects will not be confined to this region, but will extend to the depth of the international family itself.

The U.S. wager is now focused on the PRC. That is why Washington is trying by itself, or through middlemen, to convince Beijing not to use the veto against the draft resolution being prepared by the U.S. Administration to secure the approval of the Security Council of the use of force against Iraq. Beijing, however, is asked not to fall into the U.S. trap. Moreover, it is important for Beijing to remember that its use of the veto once the suspect U.S. draft resolution is taken up by the Council would save the United Nations from involvement in the imperialist aggression being prepared by Washington and its cohorts. The hoped-for PRC veto would maintain the chances of a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, especially since these chances have not been used up until now.

It would, by necessity, achieve the aspired settlement demands and abandon the threat of violence, whether it is under the UN banner or apart from it. It also calls for patience and perseverance so as to reach a just, honorable solution to the crisis. We hope President Bush would realize that his endeavor to implicate the Security Council in the Gulf war will save neither himself nor his Administration from bearing the direct responsibility, even if he managed to raise the U.S. flag over the fire which he wants to set there. For, responsibility will have to be attached to him, and the family which suffered victims will have to point at him and say: This is the man who turned his back on peace.

Oil Cutoff Shows Saudis in 'Frenzied Mood'

JN2509152390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 90 p 18

["Highlights" column by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "Cutting Off Saudi Oil Is an Unusual Measure For Which There Is a Remedy"]

[Text] The Saudi decision to cut off oil to Jordan effective 19 September 1990 indicates a frenzied mood which we have never noticed in Saudi Arabia, a country which has always behaved with extreme caution and maturity and honored all its obligations. In fact, Saudi Arabia has always avoided disputes that led to mud-slinging.

So, the decision to stop the oil flow through the TAPLINE [Trans-Arabian Pipeline] was an unusual measure which could not have been predicted by any analyst, especially since in recent years Jordan has obtained 90 percent of its oil needs from Iraq. If the Jordanian Government turned to Saudi oil this month, it was due to U.S. pressure and to avoid sanctions and also to conform to the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Saudi decision should be of little effect. Henceforth, nobody should blame Jordan if it returns to the only source available; namely, Iraqi oil, which is offered free to Third World countries.

Of course, there are government officials who fear that importing Iraqi oil might only harm Jordan and not benefit Iraq. These officials hope that Jordan will obtain generous aid from countries influenced by the United States as compensation for some of the damage caused by the economic boycott of Iraq.

To these government officials we say the world is already fully convinced that Jordan is the party most affected by the Gulf crisis and the UN Security Council resolutions. It therefore has every right to the compensations stipulated in Article 50 of the UN Charter. Besides, all that has been said about compensating Jordan is not true. It is a mere maneuver to promote certain political stands. Last week the UN Security Council was about to approve financial compensation for Jordan when the United States used its influence to prevent, or at least delay, a resolution on the subject, although the resolution itself did not commit anyone to any specific figure. So far two full months have passed since the talk about compensations without the Jordanian Government securing any definite commitment from any world nation on a sum to be paid at a specific date. All that we have received are mere intentions and attempts to paralyze Jordan's political will by tempting it to join the U.S.-Israeli camp for aid and compensations which will never be paid.

Jordan's stand must be clear. Its economic losses from the boycott are enormous. There is no real commitment to compensate it for these losses. Jordanian public opinion must clearly stand against the boycott for pan-Arab and political reasons. The Jordanian Government is emptyhanded. The vague, deceptive promises it is getting are illusions and a mirage.

Saudi Actions Seen As 'Serious Escalation'

JN2609143690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] The Mobilization and Emergency Committee at the Professional Associations has issued a statement in which it asserted that the Saudi regime's action to cut off oil supplies from Jordan, expel Jordanian diplomats, and threaten to expel and deport our sons who work there is a serious escalation in line with the recent threats launched by the U.S. Administration following the Arab Popular Forces Conference, which gave expression to the will of the nation against the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic invasion.

The Committee added: They deny the Jordanian people their right to express their positions freely, and deny the leadership of the country the democratic approach as if democracy were the monopoly of the West and its peoples.

The statement wonders: In whose interest would besieging Jordan and strangling its economy be? Jordan stands on the longest line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, and is the backer and supporter of the valiant intifadah in Palestine. Moreover, in whose interest is it to foil the political efforts undertaken by the Jordanian leadership toward an Arab solution away from foreign colonialist intervention—which is massing armies in the land of sanctities—so that international legitimacy and UN resolutions can be applied to all the conflicts in the region, primarily the Palestine issue?

The statement added: Jordan, which stands united on its principled, pan-Arab position, will not succumb to pressures and will fight the blockade and conspiracies that are being hatched against it doggedly.

The statement appealed to the government to work immediately to establish a higher council for national mobilization made up of official sides, political forces, and popular groups so as to unify and coordinate efforts and prepare the country to withstand the next stage.

Exports, Economy 'Clearly' Affected by Blockade

JN3009193990 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1445 GMT 30 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Al-'Aqabah, 30 Sep (PETRA)—Jordan has clearly and tangibly been affected by the Gulf crisis and the economic blockade against Iraq, which badly harmed Jordan's exports activity.

Sources at al-'Aqabah port said Jordanian exports used to be transported by ships that came to the port loaded with Iraqi goods. However, when transit through al-'Aqabah port stopped, exporters had to hire ships, which meant high export costs. Moreover, ships loaded with Jordanian goods think that al-'Aqabah port lies within the war zone. This means higher insurance rates on goods and ships, and the importer will have to pay high costs.

The sources said that the economic blockade harmed port movement and the Jordanian economy. The port is one of the pillars of the Jordanian economy. The transportation sector was also affected; Jordanian trucks and the transportation sector in general now depend on local business only. [passage omitted]

Paper Says Iranians Cannot Be Tempted or Bribed

JN2809120890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Great Iranians"]

[Text] The mammoth popular demonstrations scheduled to be staged in Tehran and other Arab and Islamic capitals today clearly prove that the Arabs and Muslims will never accept the occupation of the land of the message by the new crusaders, and that the faithful masses will stage their holy war against the American Satan and its small allies.

The renewal of the call for holy jihad will gain yet further momentum when the believing masses pour out from Friday prayers in Arab and Islamic cities, declaring their outrage against those who opened the doors of sanctity and prophethood to NATO and Jewish forces, which came in groups bringing to mind the picture of the first crusader campaign to Jerusalem led by Peter the Hermit some 800 years ago.

As it observes the scene of the masses from Algiers to Tehran, U.S. imperialism will unfailingly realize the significance of the believing masses' taking to the field of confrontation with the new occupiers, and the deep changes such a move will create in the balance of power in the Gulf, and especially that these masses do not lack in motive for sacrifice and jihad to liberate the Islamic sanctities from the dirt of the imperialists and the Jews, who are now occupying the three most sacred Islamic places.

Undoubtedly, the Iranians' joining the faithful masses led by Iraq against the crusaders and the Jews will give the slogan of Islamic jihad a profound dimension, and Iraq's call for jihad further confidence and credibility, especially when some frenzied attempts have been made to reopen the wounds of the Iranians and push them toward the anti-Iraq road, or at least neutralize them.

But the Iranians, who joined the Iraqis in the call for holy jihad and struggle against the American Satan and its allies, remained great; they cannot be tempted or bribed. Their new call for jihad and for readiness for the major battle against the United States is exclusive evidence that Iran is faithful to its principles and slogans, aware of the dimensions of the new crusader campaign, and determined to take part in the expected major battle together with hundreds of millions of Arab and Muslim believers.

Paper Claims Gulf Rulers Conspired Against Iraq

JN2909105590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
29 Sep 90 pp 1, 16

[Report by AL-DUSTUR staff writer Muhammad Dawudiyah from Baghdad published under banner headlines: "Saudi Arabia Uncovered the Tammuz Reactor for Israeli Planes; Why did King Fahd Hurry to Baghdad After the Gulf War Beseeching Forgiveness?"]

[Excerpt] Undoubtedly, the real issue is not Kuwait or the alleged threat to Saudi Arabia. All that is being said about these two topics on Gulf, Saudi, Arab, and U.S. levels is smoke bombs aimed at covering the fact that the Saudi and Arab Gulf rulers have no control over their affairs.

It was not they who recalled the forces of invasion, which are in fact a "multiforces nationality." The Saudi and Gulf rulers do not control the Western world in such a way that they only need to push a button to make the invaders come. Their financial capability, however, enables them to bribe some Arab rulers, personally or officially.

To be accurate, the involvement of the al-Sabah family in action against Iraq in accordance with the U.S. design is one of the clearest facts. The Gulf rulers took part in that action upon the instructions that they and the al-Sabah family received in order to damage the Iraqi economy and deny it the prospects of development and financial and military progress.

The "new Mamluks" have been invaded by Atlantic orders, and they had no option but to obey. Imagine the Saudi and Arab Gulf rulers refusing to "invite" the invaders!

Sources and analysts say they have been working for a long time against Iraq. Saudi Arabia—through the U.S. master—uncovered the Tammuz nuclear reactor for the Israeli planes which hit it while Iraq was totally preoccupied with the war with Iran. Facts will prove that the Arab Gulf rulers paid Iraq and Iran during the Iraq-Iran war to prolong the war and exhaust both parties so neither would be able to emerge from the war as a regional power.

When the war ended and the mean, hellish objective was not achieved, King Fahd hurried to Iraq beseeching forgiveness. The nonaggression treaties were then signed between Iraq and Saudi Arabia and Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, thus constituting a bizarre phenomenon. The Saudi insistence was dictated by the feeling that they had committed an act that required such a move be taken in order for them to be reassured about their continued existence.

They obeyed what they had been ordered to do. The scenario required that an Arab umbrella through the Arab League be provided for the forces of invasion. Therefore, Saudi and al-Sabah petrodollars managed to buy some Arab League members, who evidently succumbed to strategic miscalculations when they joined the al-Sabah, Sa'ud, and other Gulf families in wagering on the collapse of Iraq at the hands of the invading Atlantic forces.

No success, however, was possible for all those who have been disgracefully exposed to the Arab and Islamic nations while roaming capitals in a desperate attempt to mobilize new forces that cannot be manipulated by illegal money or stupid strategic calculations. [passage omitted]

Iraq Asked To Clarify Mitterrand Plan Position

JN2609164990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Sep 90 Second Edition pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "The French Initiative Is a Good Attempt at Understanding"]

[Text] In the last decade, France has taken several steps toward the Arabs—governments and peoples. It took part in development projects in many Arab states, and was the first Western state that sensed these states' need for advanced technology. Moreover, its awareness about the problems of the Third World prompted President Mitterrand to exempt a number of states from the interest that has accumulated on French loans.

Hence, Third World peoples, with the Arabs in the forefront, were satisfied when the French president announced at the beginning of the Gulf crisis that what is required is to understand the problems of this region and that the Arabs suffer many wounds caused by Western states. The severest wound is their strong feeling that the Western states, headed by the United States, have ignored their primary cause, which is the Palestine question and the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, and the feeling that this ignorance is a blow to their dignity. In this regard, Prince Hasan said: We are often told we are unimportant, and thus our issues have been neglected.

The Arab citizen who has been satisfied with this French understanding, however, is stunned to see France, under U.S. pressures, hasten to send its aircraft, warships, and troops to the holy land of Hejaz and to Gulf waters. These acts by France obliterate its statements. The honorable Arabs expected something else from it. They expected it to attempt to communicate its convictions and understanding to the U.S. administrative brain.

When King Husayn visited several Western states in an attempt to create a better understanding of the Gulf crisis and to pool support for an Arab resolution, we expected tangible results from these contacts since the entire world testifies that King Husayn is the most realistic and rational leader in the region, that he is the most capable person of assessing the dangers of any situation arising in the region, and that his experience in this part of the world is not available for any other ruler.

In view of these considerations and of the high credibility that his majesty has maintained all his life, world leaders, even if they become outraged or emotional, cannot but eventually attest to his sound judgment. Thus, we expected tangible results from his majesty's visit to some Western states. Since France is the best able to understand our issues, we expected the declaration of a French initiative supported by European states, and this is what President Mitterrand's initiative embodies.

For the sake of truth we say: This initiative does not conform with the Jordanian perception of the best solution to the crisis. It, however, constitutes a tangible and clear advance toward it. Therefore, we hope there will be more advancement toward the aspired Arab solution through the moves that France will carry out to promote its initiative. We should add that fraternal Iraq is now called upon, before the entire Arab nation, to increase its political activity to clarify its position on this initiative and on the Arab resolution that a number of honorable Arab leaders seek to extract. In learning Iraq's position, wise persons and peace advocates can then move to develop an initiative since they will be certain of Iraq's final position on it. Perhaps we can then take the first step toward the restoration of peace in this region.

Call for Jihad at Muslim Brotherhood Rally

JN3009114790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Sep 90 p 9

[Excerpts] The Muslim Brotherhood in the al-Tafilah governorate has held a speech rally at the al-Tafilah great mosque in connection with the rancorous crusaders' onslaught against the Muslim's land in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula.

Members of the Islamic Brotherhood group in the House of Representatives participated in this rally and delivered speeches on external ambitions and on the circumstances through which our Islamic nation is passing.

Deputy Dr. Muhammad Abu-Faris said: The conflict in the region is deeply rooted in history. This conflict began at the hands of the prophet, who guided people to the right track against the Jews, and will end at the hands of the Muslims, God willing. The Jewish presence will remain in Palestine until Islam puts an end to it. [passage omitted]

Dr. Abu-Faris stressed: The Muslim Brothers' position on the conflict in the Peninsula and the Gulf is clear. The invitation of infidel crusader forces to Muslim land to fight Muslims is a betrayal of God, his Prophet, and

Muslims. Our first objective, which is known to the entire world, is to liberate the Islamic world from any foreign tutelage or hegemony and to establish an Islamic state ruled by God's shari'a. God will avenge his house and the tomb of his beloved and chosen Prophet. This holy land will not tolerate indefils' setting foot on it.

He called for striking U.S. interests in all Arab areas in implementation of the Muslim Brotherhood's demands which were announced long before the invasion forces entered the region. The Brotherhood also called for the formation of popular jihad units to fight the U.S. forces in the Peninsula and the Gulf.

In his speech, Deputy Engineer Fu'ad al-Khalfat said: The nature of the conflict between the Koran and the crusaders is known to every Muslim. Jihad is part of the nation's conviction and must be used without the United States or other infidel countries' having to remind us. We do not want jihad to lose its meaning by practicing it in the wrong manner. [passage omitted]

Deputy al-Khalfat requested the holding of an Islamic conference, since the focal issue of the conflict in the reigon requires the coordination of Muslim efforts and formation of committees in all areas of the Islamic world to prepare Muslims for jihad. [passage omitted]

Ten Trucks Leave With Food Donations for Iraq

JN2809090190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman—Ten trucks loaded with foodstuffs and milk for children left al-Rusayfah for Iraq yesterday. These were donations collected by the popular committee for the support of Iraq from the town's residents last week.

A number of the committee members are accompanying the charity convoy.

Al-Azraq Camp Refugees' Health Said 'Excellent'

JN2509155790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] Bassam al-Hadid, director of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society's camp for the relief of the evacuees in al-Azraq, has stated that the health conditions of the residents of the camp are excellent and that there are no infectious diseases. He said that the camp is equipped with electricity and water.

He also said that the camp medical team and its field hospital are providing the best health services for the evacuees and that cases needing treatment are taken to the al-Zarqa' government hospital. He added that the camp relief teams are performing their daily work regularly and around the clock in order to serve the evacuees. He added that the camp includes evacuees from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, that the newcomers are distributed according to their nationalities, and that evacuees of the same nationality are allowed to stay together in order to facilitate services and travel. He noted that the camp was designed to accommodate 30,000 evacuees, served by several relief crews. He said that the president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society has stipulated that these teams should perform their work under the management of the vice president of the society, who is entrusted with the task of supervising the relief process.

Israel Says Jordan To Stop Refugee Transport

JN0210103290 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] The United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator's Office has issued an urgent appeal for funds to finance the transportation of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait in Jordan. The office announced that the situation of refugees in Jordan has deteriorated greatly since the appeal made by the office last week. He said there is an urgent need for $8 million a month to transport refugees from the border to the Jordanian capital.

Jordan announced yesterday it was stopping its financing of the transportation of refugees because of its dire economic circumstances.

Telecommunications With Iran Resumed 24 Sep

JN2509114690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Telecommunications between Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran were resumed yesterday, Sunday, after a break of almost 10 years.

This step falls in line with recent developments and with the recently improved ties between Iraq and Iran in particular and between Iran and Arab states in general.

Correction to Official Views UN Resolution 670

JN2709201190

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Reaction to UN Resolution 670 on Air Embargo," subheaded "Official Views Interpretation," published in the 28 September Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 39.

Page 40, column one, fourth paragraph, second sentence make read ...the UN-affiliated International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO], whose spokesman said... (correcting name of organization)

Same paragraph, second through third sentences, make read ...the United Nations. ICAO is the leading... (correcting acronym)

Army, Lebanese Forces Fire at Demonstrators

NC0110204490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] A state of chaos prevailed at Beirut's crossings this evening. The chaos soon gave way to clashes between General 'Awn's forces and the Lebanese Forces. Gen. 'Awn's information media said that Ja'ja' forces opened fire several times on demonstrators who had proceeded to the besieged crossing points, particularly the Buick, the Museum, and the al-Barbir crossings. These demonstrations were staged in response to a call from Gen. 'Awn's central coordination bureau for a protest and denunciation of the closure of the crossings. 'Awn's information media also said that Red Cross ambulances began evacuating the dead and wounded who fell at the Nahr al-Mawt crossing when Lebanese Forces gunmen and [Army Commander] Emile Lahhud's elements fired at the demonstrators. They said that seven people were killed and approximately 20 were wounded. They said that Lahhud men fired at the demonstrators who proceeded to the al-Duwwar-'Ayn al-Tuffahah crossing.

The Lebanese Forces information media did not report on demonstrations, but said that the security situation became tense along the eastern area's combat lines after sporadic skirmishes on the newly established combat lines from the Buick area up to Nahr al-Mawt. They said that rockets and machine guns were used in these clashes. Fighting involving rockets and machine guns also occurred on the Nahr al-Mawt crossing.

[Paris AFP in English at 2014 GMT on 1 October reports that "at least 13 people were killed and 36 wounded as shots were fired at demonstrators in northern Beirut, medical sources said."]

REUTER Says 25 Killed

NC0210061490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has warned against involving the Army in the regrettable incident which took place near Nahr al-Mawt last night. Shots were fired at pro-'Awn demonstrators leaving several people dead or wounded. [passage omitted]

REUTER said that 25 people were killed and 82 others wounded in the incident.

'Awn Blames Ja'ja', Lahhud

LD0210100290 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] At least 22 were killed and more than 80 injured during a demonstration in Beirut yesterday: gunmen opened fire on the pro- 'Awn demonstrators—they fired on everything that moved, men, women, and children. It was a veritable massacre. The Christian general blames the [Lebanese Forces] militia of his rival Samir Ja'ja' and the government of Ilyas al-Hirawi. Jean-Marc Fourre was able to contact him by phone this morning:

[Begin recording] ['Awn] I believe that the responsibility is shared by both, the armed elements of General Lahhud, along with the Lebanese Forces—they bear joint responsibility for this appalling crime. What happened is beyond all imagining. The people are angry, what is happening in Beirut is a true revolution.

[Fourre] Were you surprised by what happened yesterday evening?

['Awn] Not personally, no. I know the criminals, I know what they are capable of, but even the most informed people were also surprised.

[Fourre] The Lebanese Forces did not hesitate yesterday evening in saying that it was a trick pulled off [coup monte] by you.

['Awn] There you have the most tangible proof of how they can lie in France, but they cannot lie in Lebanon where there are 15,000 children, men, adolescents, old people, all of whom have been the target of the bullets, the shells, and antitank rockets, with cameras which have photographed everything, which have filmed everything. One cannot lie in the face of all this proof. [end recording]

Army Denies Involvement

NC0110215490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Demonstrations were held near Nahr al-Mawt in the eastern area tonight to express support for former Army Commander Michel 'Awn. Shots were fired and several persons were killed or wounded. 'Awn's media accused the Army of opening fire. In comment on this regrettable incident, the Army Command has issued the following statement:

The Army Command emphasizes that its elements did not fire at anybody. The command is conducting the necessary investigation to reveal the ramifications of the incident. The command warns all sides against attempting to involve the Army in the incident for specific purposes. It will acquaint the public with all facts as soon as they are known.

Al-Asad Pledges Assistance to Al-Hirawi

NC0110100090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Citing diplomats and officials in Damascus, REUTER yesterday reported that Syrian President al-Asad has pledged to President al-Hirawi that Syria will give every means of political and military support for the Lebanese legitimacy in its efforts to topple mutinous General Michel 'Awn.

In another development, the blockade imposed on areas controlled by former army commander Michel 'Awn has started to generate food supplies problems and congestion at the crossing point leading from the capital and Kasrawan to the two regions of al-Matn.

The prices of consumer goods and fuel have recorded relative increases. Five gallons of gasoline is being sold at 50,000 Lebanese Pounds. Streets are almost deserted except for a few people who rushed to food stores to stock up on food commodities.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Denounces Western Presence

U.S. Aims To Control Oil

LD2909112790 Tehran IRNA in English 0954 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 29, IRNA—A prominent Lebanese alim Friday said that Western countries were challenging each other over Muslims' wealth and resources in the Persian Gulf region "under the pretext of unity of the Western world". However, said Friday prayer leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn al-'Allamah Fadlallah: "Military presence of Western countries in the region does not indicate their unity since their stands are contradictory."

He emphasized that the objective of the U.S. military expedition to the region is to control oil resources in order to press the world, "mainly Europe and Japan." Elsewhere in his sermons, Fadlallah strongly condemned brutal treatment of the Palestinians by the Zionists in the occupied territories.

He castigated international, Islamic and so-called human rights organisations for remaining silent vis-a-vis such barbaric acts. He appealed to the Lebanese people to put an end to the current civil war in the country and stressed that such hostilities would bear no fruit other than losses and destruction.

Says Muslims Must Confront U.S.

NC2909184390 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has described the crisis in the region and the presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia as a conspiracy aimed at undermining the Islamic forces' military, economic, and political capabilities. Our correspondent in Beirut says that in his Friday sermon at the Imam al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's Southern Suburb yesterday, Fadlallah said that America's goal is to control the flow of oil to the world so that it can extend its influence throughout the area.

'Allamah Fadlallah condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He said that the Muslims of the world are duty bound to confront America's policy in the region in all ways, because the presence of the U.S. forces in the region constitutes a great danger that directly threatens the Muslims' interests.

Nation Expects Kuwaiti, World Bank Aid

NC3009073890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 sep 90

[Text] Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has disclosed that Lebanon loses $150 million a month because of the Gulf crisis.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper, he expected the resumption of the World Bank's loans program to Lebanon to revive projects for developing the economic infrastructure. He said the Lebanese committee of reconstruction and development will submit a report to the World Bank on Lebanon's requirements in this respect.

Meanwhile, AL-HAYAH said World Bank sources expect that Lebanon will get $100 million in urgent economic aid from Kuwait.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Nation on Prophet's Birthday

LD0110230590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Speech by President Najibullah marking the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Respected 'ulema, dear religious leaders, and dear compatriots, I am pleased, through participating in such a grand and blessed meeting, to express to you my best congratulations on the occasion of the auspicious birthday of the master of universe, Hazrat-e Muhammad Mostafa, peace be upon him and on his family, the last messenger of God, and our great and pious leader and that of all Muslims of the world. And I pray for almighty God to cease war and establish peace in our country, peace and tranquillity of the world of Islam and throughout the world. [passage omitted]

With the declaration of the policy of national reconciliation, we have utilized all possibilities and initiatives toward the immediate cessation of war and fratricide and the maintenance of nationwide peace. In order to end the bloodshed, we have consistently put forward many proposals and there is no doubt that the proud history of this country will enshrine with bright letters all our efforts, and concessions arising from the directives of God based on peace is righteousness, and from our sincere and unwavering belief in the establishment of peace and tranquility of the creatures of God.

As you know, the Republic of Afghanistan recently put forward a new and comprehensive mechanism for a political and peaceful solution of the question of Afghanistan and has brought it to the intention of all the people of the world and the international community. This program could begin with understanding and dialogue among the Afghans and end with free and just elections based on the principles of democracy under the supervision of the United Nations.

We have named the implementation of this comprehensive program as a transitional stage which can justly be put into practice with the participation of the involved sides both inside and outside, the country and the world by refraining from the monopoly of power and showing readiness to share it with all the forces who are ready for the establishment of peace and the reconstruction of the country, taking measures to pave the way for the active participation of the representatives of the will of the people in the national sovereignty based on the principles of democracy, the parliamentary system, national understanding and unity and to achieve a state system based on the coalition of a vast majority of the forces.

In order to familiarize people better with the contents of the peace plan of the Republic of Afghanistan, it is contemplated that very soon further explanation and detailed information should be given through the media about the proposed peace plan of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Dear compatriots, as you know, both from the national and international viewpoint, the ground has been paved for a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan. Our efforts at national level concentrated on the establishment of contacts and holding talks with a number of the opposition forces and on the desire expressed by a number of groups and personalities who really want peace. Also, measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan this year such as amendments to the constitution, the formation of the new government consisting of nonparty personalities, reviving the activities of the Meli Shura with its ful authority, bringing changes into the policy and charter of the Homeland Party, are all designed to prepared the ground internaly for the formation of the inter-Afghan understanding. Therefore, the formation of an understanding between the Soviet Union and the United States and the relative changes in the stance of a number of the involved countries toward a political solution of the issue of Afghanistan are favorable international causes which contribute toward a speedy end to war and the establishment of peace in the country.

Dear ulema, recently I visited the Soviet Union and held talks with the high-ranking authorities of that country.

During our meeting with the Soviet leaders we came to the conclusion that beneficial and mutual cooperation between the state and people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union should not only remain based on the historical needs and contemporary [word indistinct] but it is necessary that they should develop and expand further. Cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan as two independent countries organized on international norms and standards conforms with the interest of the people of both neighboring countries and that of peace and security in the country. [passage omitted]

Esteemed participants, by relying on God's help and in the light of the bright candle of the outstanding religion of Islam, we advance toward peace and the establishment of tranquillity and security by presenting new plans. We hope, with the blessing of this auspicious day, that those opposition personalities and organizations who have still not realized the urgent need for ending war and the establishment of peace, will follow a path with a feeling of national and religious responsibility, the path of God and in the interest of all Afghans. [passage omitted]

The extremists should know that the Muslim people of Afghanistan have passed judgment on them. This shows that they have no feeling of responsibility and do not have even the smallest respect for our sacred religious days. Only one example is enough: that the people of Afghanistan do understand and will express their judgement more clearly and more obviously based on this fact before history.

The Republic of Afghanistan has decided on the occasion of this auspicious day, the birth anniversary of

Prophet Muhammad, to pardon a large number of male and female prisoners. Also, another 58 people who were sentenced to death will have their sentences pardoned. On the other hand the opposite side kills dozens of the people. I think it is enough that the two actions, the two measures, and the two wills and intentions, if they are weighed on a scale, will be judged before history by the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Reports to National Assembly

LD0110052790 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0504 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Sep 30, BAKHTAR—The lower and upper houses of the National Assembly "parliament" of the Republic of Afghanistan today held separate sessions presided over by Dr. Mahmud Habibi speaker of Senate and Dr. Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi chairman of the House of Representatives, reported a BAKHTAR parliamentary correspondent.

In the today's general session of the House of Representatives, Fazel Haq Khaliqyar Republic of Afghanistan's prime minister and his cabinet members, as per the promise made by him 4 months back while obtaining the vote of confidences of the peoples deputies, attended and delivered a brief report on the activities of the government within the said span of time.

Later on the peoples deputies expressed views on the different aspects of the prime minister report and endorsed [word indistinct] resolution on the participation of the Republic of Afghanistan's prime minister in one of the coming general session of the house for replying questions due to be raised by the deputies.

Wakil Meets Yemeni, Palestinian Officials at UN

LD2909205890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil has met separately at the UN Headquarters with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Yemen, and Faruq Qaddumi, minister of foreign affairs of the state of Palestine. In the meeting the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan spoke about the efforts made by the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan toward a political solution of Afghan problems, leading to an immediate cessation of war and bloodshed, and the aims of Afghan foreign policy in connection with the expansion of Afghan relations with Islamic countries.

In response the foreign ministers of the Republic of Yemen and the state of Palestine expressed their support for a political solution of Afghan problems, and strengthening the role of the United Nations in this respect. Also, the sides exchanged views on the development of the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East.

According to another report 'Abdul Wakil met today with Theo-Ben Gurirab, minister of foreign affairs of Namibia. During an exchange of views on the development of the two countries and the international situation, they agreed to take due measures for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Namibia in conformity with the national interests of the people of the two countries and international benefits.

India

Bill To Extend President's Rule in Punjab Fails

Congress-I Did Not Vote

BK0110121490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1135 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, the Constitution amendment bill seeking extension of president's rule in Punjab for another six months fell through for want of the requisite members' presence and voting in favor of the bill. The Congress-I members did not take part in the voting, insisting that the government should first prove its simple majority in the house. The deputy speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, announced after division on the first stage of the consideration of the bill that 249 members were in favor and three against. He ruled that the motion for passing the bill has not been carried as there is no majority of the total membership of the house. The announcement was followed by acrimonious scenes and the house was adjourned for an hour. The present term of president's rule in the state ends on the 10th of next month.

Earlier, moving the bill, the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, said that prevailing circumstances in Punjab are still not conducive for holding free and peaceful elections to the state assembly.

Singh Challenges Opposition

BK0110150890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The Constitution amendment bill regarding extension of the president's rule in Punjab for six more months fell through in the Lok Sabha at the first stage of voting today. The surprise development followed the Congress-I decision not to participate in voting in the initial stage. The bill received 249 votes in favor and three against in the division. The deputy speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, who was in the chair, said the motion was not carried as there was no majority of the total membership of the house. This sparked off noisy scenes, acrimonious exchanges, and shouts between the members of the ruling front and the opposition.

Intervening, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, challenged the opposition to move a no-confidence motion against the government straight away. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, contended that it is not the responsibility of his party to ensure majority though it had offered cooperation in the passage of the bill with a two-third majority.

The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, and the leaders of the left parties, including Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Somnath Chatterji, criticized the Congress-I for what they called its double standards and politically motivated action.

Senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, and Mr. Jaswant Singh of Bharatiya Janata Party underlined the need to find a way out to resolve the crisis. After hearing members from both sides, the speaker adjourned the house for an hour and invited leaders of various parties to his chamber for consultations. After the house reassembled, Mr. Shivraj Patil, who was on the chair, adjourned the house for the day as the house decided not to take up the Congress-I-sponsored motion on the current agitation today.

Opposition Raises Reservation Issue in Lok Sabha

BK0110165390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, agitated members, mostly from the Congress-I benches, tried to raise the issue of antireservation agitation and alleged police excesses on students. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, stood up to speak but opposition members kept on shouting. Repeated requests by the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, to allow the prime minister to speak went unheeded. In the continued din, Mr. Vasant Sathe, Congress-I, was heard saying that he would observe a hunger strike right in the house in protest against the government's inaction and its handling of the agitation.

Meanwhile, a Bharatiya Janata Party member, Professor Yadunath Pandey, protested against his arrest and confinement in the central jail in Hazaribagh in Bihar on the 21st of last month. He also complained that the news of his arrest was not broadcast by the electronic media. His party colleagues wanted to move a privilege motion which the speaker disallowed. All the Bharatiya Janata Party members then staged a walkout in protest. Mr. Vasant Sathe later announced that he had given up the hunger strike in the light of the Supreme Court's stay order.

Demonstration Underway in Delhi Over Job Quota

Speakers Oppose Caste Division

BK0210094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] A rally is being organized at the Boat Club in New Delhi by the antireservationists in protest against the government's decision to implement the Mandal Commission's report. Speakers, while criticizing the government's decision, said the implementation of the report will divide the country on caste lines. They urged the government to reconsider the decision in view of yesterday's Supreme Court direction. They appealed to the people, particularly students and youth, to refrain from violence and not to take the extreme step of ending their lives. They also asked the youth to be vigilant against any political party taking advantage of the situation. Those who spoke included the former union minister, Dr. Karan Singh; the president of the Panthers Party, Mr. Bhim Singh; Mrs. Amrita Pritam; and Captain Mahipal Singh.

Meanwhile, there are reports of miscreants indulging in looting and damaging shops in some areas. All India Radio correspondents who went round some areas of the city reports that several buses and private vehicles were being damaged. Demonstrators wielding lathis [baton] and iron rods were also seen forcing private vehicle owners to carry them to the venue of the rally.

The Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] withdrew its bus services in view of the situation. A spokesman of the DTC said that bus services will resume in the afternoon if the situation improves. The Delhi Police have made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order and are keeping a strict vigil over the situation.

In Haryana, curfew has been completely lifted from Sirsa town while it has been relaxed in the other seven curfew-bound cities. In Punjab, the curfew has been lifted from Nava town of Patiala District. The situation in the remaining six curfew-bound towns continues to be under control.

Violence, Looting Increases

BK0210095990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 2 (AFP)—Some 200,000 students and stave-wielding farmers took over the center of the Indian capital Tuesday where they burned effigies of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh and vowed to intensify their campaign against a scheme reserving half of government jobs for lower castes.

"Withdraw the Mandal report (on which the job quotas are based) or the whole of India will go up in flames," shouted Hari Om Singh, a student leader from the northern state of Uttar Pradesh to cheers from slogan-shouting students. "Frauds and hypocrites have taken over the country, they are teaching casteism," said former Foreign Secretary Shailendra Kumar Singh, one of about 40 speakers to address the tense, massive rally.

By early afternoon, witnesses reported growing incidents of violence, with two water tankers set on fire by the students and stones and sticks hurled at the speaking dias when the microphones failed. Students fought pitched battles with police who tried to reach the columns of dense black smoke marking the burning tanker trucks, witnesses said, adding that the drivers of the trucks had been severely beaten.

"The students must step up their struggle against injustice," speaker after speaker shouted. Other student leaders called on the crowd to set fire to the prime minister's house, burn the MPs who supported the quotas and one even suggested that the prime minister's wife burn herself.

Farmers' leader Mahendra Singh Tikait, whose followers from the north Indian farm belt had poured into New Delhi in convoys of open trucks armed with hoes and wooden staves before dawn, drove to the rally shortly after noon. He was accompanied by three truck-loads of farmers and villagers waving wooden spears, raising fears among police on the boat club park here that the rally, the biggest show of force against the quotas yet, could turn more violent.

"I have come here to console you for the deaths in police atrocities, and for the immolations," Mr. S.K. Singh told the students. He was referring to the estimated 70 people, at least 18 of them students who have burned themselves to death or committed suicide by taking poison, in the explosion of violence in urban centers throughout northern India since the quotas were announced august 7.

The streets of the capital, with offices closed to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of non-violence advocate Mahatma (great soul) Gandhi, were tense and almost deserted, witnesses said. The few motorists who ventured out reported being halted and in some cases harrassed and ordered to shout anti-government slogans supporting the student-led campaign against the job quotas and the prime minister.

Small contingents of police at intersections ringing the park kept a low profile as incidents of looting by the farmers were reported. Uniformed police on motorcycles spun through the silent inner city areas warning pavement cigarette sellers to go home in case the crowd became unruly and turned to looting. "Things can go bad as the rally does not have any organisation behind it," a top police officer said, voicing fears of largescale anti-government violence after the rally.

A five-judge bench Monday ordered the government not to take "any further steps" on implementing its decision to raise job quotas for backward castes by 27 per cent, hiking the total concessions for the lower castes to 49.5 per cent. The students argue that the quotas make a mockery of merit in India's desperately overcrowded job market and that the system would reinforce rather than help wipe out India's rigid caste lines.

Several of the speakers at the rally repeatedly urged the students to give up suicide as a form of protest, witnesses said. "Don't burn yourselves, burn your leaders," one speaker shouted.

The appeals were made as reports from Chandigarh, the state capital of Haryana, said two students, one a 17-year-old girl, who had tried to burn themselves to death in protest against the job quotas had died of their injuries. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said one girl, Sandeep Sharma, and another student from the state of Himachal Pradesh, Ramesh Kumar, had both died in a Chandigarh hospital Tuesday, bringing the number of protest-suicide deaths to at least 20.

Police Fire on Demonstrators

BK0210102390 Hong Kong AFP in English
1011 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 2 (AFP)—Indian police opened fire on students protesting a government job quota scheme in the Indian capital Tuesday, leaving a number of people dead or injured, police and witnesses said. The firing occurred when a crowd of students who had attended a rally of some 200,000 people to protest the government scheme converged on a small contingent of police at India Gate and pelted them with stones and rocks, the witnesses said.

Police confirmed a number of rounds had been fired, and witnesses said at least three people had fallen under the hail of bullets, including at least one who appeared to be dead. India Gate is at the center of the boat club lawns near parliament house, where the massive anti-job quota rally was held.

Iran

Velayati Continues Meeting With Officials at UN

UN Officers Praise Gulf Stance

NC2709101190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 27 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati held separate meetings with the UN secretary general and the UN General Assembly chairman in New York. We draw your attention to our colleague's report on the topics discussed by the two sides in these meetings:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] The chairman of the UN General Assembly expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the wise stance by the Islamic Republic of Iran—as a country with the longest border along the Persian Gulf—on the issue of the usurpation of Kuwait. Mr. Guido De Marco, chairman of the UN General Assembly, who met with our foreign minister a few hours ago, stated the above while exchanging views with Mr. Velayati on other international issues.

Our foreign minister also referred to the usurpation of Kuwait and stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a bitter, but constructive experience in confronting such events. He added: We desire an amicable solution to the crisis. Mr. Velayati also met Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, a few hours ago at the UN Headquarters and held talks with him. In this meeting, Mr. Perez de Cuellar expressed his satisfaction at the positive developments regarding the implementation of of the Security Council Resolution 598, but regretted the emergence of another crisis in the region.

He stressed the need for ending this crisis, and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. While thanking the UN Secretary general for his efforts in bringing peace to the region, Mr. Velayati presented him with a report on the trend of the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

Meets Namibian President

LD2809232490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati held separate meetings with the Namibian president and the foreign ministers of Brazil, Finland, Algeria, and France during the 45th UN General Assembly session today, in New York.

The Central News Unit reports from UN Headquarters, in New York, that Namibian President Sam Nujoma met with Velayati and remarked on the Persian Gulf situation and expressed regret over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. He briefed Velayati on developments in Africa and expressed Namibia's stand on these developments. He also called for expanded political and economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Namibia.

Velayati expressed the hope that the Kuwaiti occupation issue will be resolved peacefully and reaffirmed the Islamic Republic of Iran's mutual desire for expanding Namibian relations. The Brazilian foreign minister met with our foreign minister and expressed his joy at growing relations between the two countries and invited Velayati to visit Brazil. He also expressed his wish to visit Iran.

Our foreign minister responded by pointing out the similarities between the two countries, including the existence of vast economic resources and a high diplomatic potential for dealing with various international issues. He voiced his optimism on future relations between Iran and Brazil.

The Finnish foreign minister met with our foreign minister on issues of mutual interest, including the Persian Gulf. The two sides invited each other on visits to their respective countries. The Algerian foreign minister met with our foreign minister on the Persian Gulf crisis and its consequences for the Islamic world, on the two countries' stands on the Kuwaiti occupation, and on the presence of foreign forces in the region.

On the Kuwaiti occupation, the Algerian foreign minister said: We also believe Iraq's action has provided the foreign forces with the pretext to remain in the Persian Gulf. The Central News Unit reports French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas met Velayati on the French stand on the Kuwaiti occupation. He reaffirmed his government's wish for a peaceful resolution of the crisis that followed that occupation. The French foreign minister also called for the expansion of ties between Iran and France.

Canada, Tunisia, Greece Ministers

NC2909081290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] Dr. Velayati met the Canadian, Tunisian, and Greek foreign ministers at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday. In his meeting with Dr. Velayati, Canadian Foreign Minister Clark expressed his happiness with the improved EC ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and declared his country's willingness and desire for expansion of mutual ties.

He said the upgrading of ties between the two countries to the ambassadorial level is a positive step in deepening and consolidating bilateral ties. The Canadian foreign minister stated: Canada's policy is to respect Iran and Muslims' Islamic beliefs. Referring to Iran's strategic location in the region, Mr. Clark deemed the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisions important and effective.

During this meeting, Velayati welcomed bilateral ties, and asserted that respect for Divine religions and the beliefs of Muslims of the world was a necessary prerequisite in international relations. Our foreign minister stressed the need for an amicable settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis, and the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects every alteration in the region's political geography.

Velayati said that a regional solution would be the best and sole means of resolving the Persian Gulf crisis and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the region. In his meeting with Dr. Velayati at the UN Headquarters, the Tunisian foreign minister declared his country's desire for broader ties with Iran.

The Greek foreign minister also met our foreign minister, and expressed the hope for broadening of mutual relations.

Ties Discussed With EC Members

NC2909083890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] In the meetings with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister last night at the UN Headquarters in New York the foreign ministers of Italy, Ireland, and Luxembourg, in their capacity as representatives of the 12 EC member countries, discussed ties between the EC and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the present crisis in the Persian Gulf, and the trend toward peace between Iran and Iraq.

During this meeting, the Italian foreign minister, whose country currently heads the EC, expressed the willingness and desire of the EC and its 12 members for a greater broadening of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Regarding the present crisis in the Persian Gulf, he stressed that European countries' view is that foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf should leave the region after the crisis is resolved.

He expressed the hope that the complete implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions will result in resolving the current crisis. The Italian foreign minister also expressed satisfaction at the positive developments toward peace between Iran and Iraq and said: The EC member countries consider the 1975 Accord to be the official and valid accord governing the joint Iran-Iraq border.

During this meeting, the Irish foreign minister also termed the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis important and effective, in view of our country's particular location.

The foreign minister of Luxembourg, who will hold the office of head of the EC from 1991, appreciated Iran's constructive role in developments in the region, and hoped that the trend of expanding relations between the EC and Iran will move forward swiftly.

During this meeting, while welcoming the broadening of mutual ties, our foreign minister explained the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the crisis in the Persian Gulf, and said: The Muslim Iranian nation, and other Muslims, are opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the region. He emphasized that the sole, stable, and durable means of resolving the crisis is the cooperation between the countries of the region, and adherence to the Security Council resolutions.

In the course of this meeting, the two sides stressed the need for an all-around effort in the release of all the hostages, regardless of their nationality.

Meets Turkish, Cuban Counterparts

LD2909114490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Text] In continuation of his meetings with various countries' foreign ministers, Foreign Minister Velayati met with foreign affairs ministers of Turkey, Cuba, Denmark, Portugal, and Ethiopia at United Nations headquarters yesterday evening.

According to the IRNA report bilateral relations, the process of peace talks between Iran and Iraq on the basis of Resolution 598, the Persian Gulf crisis, and other international issues were discussed in those meetings.

Foreign ministers of those countries stressed the important role the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. They described our country's policies vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis as firm and fundamental.

The Turkish foreign affairs minister, in his meeting with the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign affairs minister, requested expanding and deepening bilateral relations in all fields. In that meeting both sides stressed the necessity of Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the safeguard of the region's security through cooperation of the countries of the region. Mr. Velayati explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances opposing the presence of the alien forces in the region and said [announcer-read]: The Islamic Republic of Iran wil not accept a change in the political geography of the region under any circumstances.

On the basis of the same report the Cuban foreign affairs minister also stressed the close stances of the two countries. He said Cuba condemns the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the presence of the U.S. forces in the region. Referring to the remarks made by the U.S. officials he stressed that foreign forces intend to maintain a permanent presence in the region to secure their own interests. On his country's oppositin to the Security Council Resolution 666, he said: We oppose the establishment of a ban on the dispatch of foodstuffs to Iraq, as that will have undesirable effects on the people of that country.

Egyptian Apology Demanded Before POW's Freed

PM2709151890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by Wajdi Zayn-al-Din: "Cairo's Apology for Involvement in Iraq-Iran War The Condition for Releasing 12,000 Egyptian POW's in Tehran"]

[Text] Egypt is still negotiating with Iran for the release of Egyptian POW's in Iran. Authoritative sources in Cairo have confirmed the presence of 12,000 Egyptian POW's in Iran. For their release Tehran has set the condition that Cairo submit a request, expressing regret for its participation in the Iraq-Iran war. Egypt, however, has announced its vigorous rejection of the request. Authoritative sources have emphasized that Iran's aim in the request is to embarrass Egypt internationally for its participation in the Iraq-Iran war.

Deputy Speaker Condemns U.S. Presence in Region

LD0110191390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] In yesterday's open session of the Majles which was chaired by Mr. Hashemiyan, following a series of remarks delivered by the pre-agenda speakers, the deputy speaker of the Majles made a speech in which he remarked on friday's [28 September] glorious march. He said:

[Begin Hashemiyan recording] The march staged by the Iranian nation on Friday was a march of unity and victory; it merits praise and thanks. It was a march of victory; a victory achieved thanks to the self-sacrifices of the Muslim ummah, and the selfless combative free men [former POW's] who prevented the country from being dismembered, a plot which was to have been carried out by Saddam [Husayn] and at the behest of the United States and the Eastern and Western powers. Finally, the enemy was forced to free the POW's and to withdraw his forces from the occupied territories. All of this resulted in a victory which the almighty bestowed on the Iranian nation and the Islamic ummah. On the other hand, this march was staged in support of the remarks made by the leader of the revolution against the shameful presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf. In staging this epic-making march, the Iranian nation showed its support for the leader's remarks and its abhorence of the presence of the United Stats in the region. The United States, that international aggressor, must leave this region as soon as possible, otherwise it will suffer the same fate as Lebanon. [end recording] [passage omitted]

President Opens Trade Fair, Speaks on Gulf Crisis

LD0110124290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The 16th Tehran International Trade Fair was inaugurated in a glorious ceremony this morning, in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who delivered a speech on the occasion. At this ceremony, which was attended by a number of our country's ministers, the ministers and ambassadors of the foreign countries participating in the fair, and a number of the managers and technical experts of domestic and foreign production factories, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that the current conditions in the country necessitate a collective economic movement.

He remarked: To set up such exhibitions, the industrial countries should allow other countries to benefit from their industries. Industrial exhibitions should act as a place for the growth of and as a means of promoting the material and spiritual standards of all people in the world.

Referring to recent developments in the region, the president said: Today the world has realized that the Islamic Republic of Iran during the eight years of the holy defense played a significant role—based on justice and respect for the people's rights—as the region's axis of stability, with a strong presence on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the sea of Oman, safeguarding the region's political and economic stability, despite the perpetration of malevolence by the arrogance in the Persian Gulf. However, today, the side that fought the Islamic Republic of Iran has threatened world security, pitching the world to a dangerous precipice, whose consequences cannot be foreseen by the world. Moreover, international relations have been very inappropriate.

The president added: In such conditions, the faithful and combative forces and those governments, nations, and individuals who possess influence in the regional governments should be deployed in order to confront this onslaught. But instead, we have witnessed the deployment of alien foreign forces; forces, the cost of whose presence is ultimately to be paid out of the material resources of the region's inhabitants.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The Islamic Republic of Iran endeavors to familiarize the world with the other dimensions of Islamic values and hopes to render the world as much service as it possibly can. [passage omitted]

Sees Role as 'Anchor of Stability'

LD0110125190 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—"Iran is capable of and willing to act as an anchor of stability in the region," said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday [1 October] in connection with the current situation in the Persian Gulf region. President Rafsanjani was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair which was opened at the presence of a large number of foreign and domestic guests, here this morning.

He stressed that Iran sought to have a serious presence in the Persian Gulf region on the basis of justice and respect for the rights of the regional people. The president noted that recent developments in the region have jeopardized international security and added: "A country through an act of aggression against its neighbour has done injustice to the people of the both countries and in addition to making people homeless has made others to suffer."

The move, he stressed, has also threatened international security and has pushed the world into the edge of a confrontation which could leave massive impact. "This is an unwise, expansionist, and malevolent measure which has faced the human society with a new problem," the president told the gathering.

He added that in spite of its eight-year long imposed war and presence of its armed forces in the Persian Gulf during the war time, Iran did not inflict any damage on the region. Moreover, the president noted, despite destruction of a number of Iran's oil platforms by the U.S., the Islamic Republic of Iran refrained from posing any threat to the regional interests. "This proves humanitarian and cultural aspects of our Islamic revolution," said the president.

Elsewhere in his speech, the president said that the exhibition provided an opportunity both for filling the gap between various nations and also for displaying the latest technical and industrial achievements. He noted that despite the hardships of the war time, holding of the Tehran International Trade Fair had not been interrupted.

He added that compared to previous fairs the present one enjoyed a better position, both in terms of quality and quantity. However, he called for greater efforts to further improve the standard of such exhibitions. [passage omitted]

Habibi Calls For Expansion of Trade With Turkey

LD0110130290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Sukru Yurur, Turkey's minister of industry and trade, conferred with Mr. Habibi, the first vice president, shortly before noon yesterday. First, during the meeting, Mr. Yurur thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for inviting Turkey to participate in the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair, and said: I am confident that the holding of this exhibition will reward Iran with suitable opportunities. He added: We believe that the production level of the two countries' factories should be increased through bilateral cooperation, and we hope to achieve optimal results in the joint Iran-Turkey commission which is to be convened in the next few months. Concluding his remarks, Turkey's minister of industry and trade said: I hope that the current problems in the Persian Gulf will not inflict any damage on the neighboring countries.

Mr. Habibi, for his part, spoke about the record of friendship and the common cultural, political, social, and economic bases between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey. He said: Iran's assets which, during the imposed war, were expended on war, can be used for industrial purposes in peace time. We have already activated our resources in industrial fields.

Ramarking on existing resources, such as expert manpower, and energy resources, specifically the vast gas resources in Iran, as well as the existing resources in Turkey, Mr. Habibi stated: If we employ these resources jointly, then the two countries of Iran and Turkey will be able to achieve optimal results. In this connection the two governments should endeavor to remove burdensome bureaucratic regulations, to enable industrialists to cooperate with one another.

Regarding the Persian Gulf issues, the first vice president, while condemning the two protagonists [as heard], said: We condemn Iraq for having violated international borders and regulations, and the alien forces for their presence in the Persian Gulf, which has caused tension in the region.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Habibi emphasised that international regulations must be respected. He said: We believe that the integrity of international borders should continue to be protected, and condemn any discussion of alteration of the geographical borders of the region.

Khamene'i Appoints POW Affairs Representative

LD2909105990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, in a decree appointed (Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abu-Torabi), the released clergy who spent 10 years in the captivity of the Iraqi regime, as his representative in POW affairs. [passage omitted]

Guardians Council Approves Assembly Candidates

LD2809142690 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Eligibility of 109 candidates for the second term of the Experts Assembly has been approved by the Guardians Council, it was announced here Friday. The theologian members of the council in numerous sessions studied qualifications and eligibility of the candidates, the headquarters supervising the elections announced.

The elections will be held on October 8 throughout the country. The Experts Assembly is an 83-member body who are elected for an 8-year term. The main responsibility of the assembly is to select a leader for the Islamic Republic whenever the situation demands.

Date Set for Majles Constituency Elections

LD0110160990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued a statement announcing that voting for the second round of the elections for the third term of the Majles will take place in two [as heard] constituencies—Tehran, Ray, Shemiranat, Kurdkov, and Bandar-e Turkaman—at the same time as the second term elections to the Assembly of Experts, on Monday 8 October. According to the Central News Unit, the Interior Ministry announced that all those who meet the necessary requirements of the two aforementioned constituencies can refer to the polling stations and vote for their candiates by presenting their birth certificates.

Three Council of Experts Candidates Step Down

LD0110162790 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Three candidates for the Council of Experts have decided not to run for the elections. They are Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Reza Tavassoli and Mohammad Va'ez Aba'i [name as received].

In separate letters to the Minister of the Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-[Hoseynian] who is constitutionally in charge of the nationwide elections, the three have declared their decision to withdraw without offering any explanation.

A principal task of the Council of Experts is to select the leader of the state who is the highest authority in the Islamic Republic as well as disqualify him or declare him incapable on any ground as provided for in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic.

Tehran Radio Comments on Soviet-Israeli Ties

LD0110141790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary: "The Resumption of Consular Relations Between the Soviet Union and Israel"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Finally, two years after the resumption of consular activities between the Soviet Union and the Zionist regime, relations were made official yesterday. Thus, the first official step was taken toward the resumption of ties between the two sides. [passage omitted]

In 1967, after the Zionist regime's aggression against the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the six-day war, Moscow-Tel Aviv ties were broken. From that time, until Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union, Moscow had an anti-Zionist stance in support of the Arabs. However, important changes have taken place in those relations, the most prominent among which is the permission given to Soviet Jews to emigrate in very large numbers. If in the past these emigrants were allowed to go to countries other than occupied Palestine, now, with coordination between the United States, Israel, and the Soviet Union, Soviet Jews almost have no other choice out to travel to occupied Palestine. The Zionist regime, for its part, by settling those people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is trying to annex those regions to the rest of occupied Palestine and reduce to zero the chance of achieving any kind of political solution, even with regard to part of Palestine. The increased immigration to occupied Palestine, which is taking place with full Soviet approval, is also threatening the security foundation of many Middle East countries.

At an official level, the Soviet Union has declared that it will resume full diplomatic ties with Israel only when the regime agrees to an international Middle East peace conference. However, from the point of view of an ordinary person and, especially, a Palestinian who sees the violence inflicted on his compatriots every day, Moscow-Tel Aviv ties have been in existence for a long time. Political meetings and visits, commercial exchanges and, apart from that, the flood of Jewish immigrants are signs of normal ties between the two parties.

What is striking about this unfortunate move is the fact that the Soviet Union and the Zionist regime, by using the crisis arising out of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the concentration of public minds and opinions on it, are trying to normalize their ties more rapidly. In the opinion of political analysts, if the United States has exploited the crisis in order to base its forces on the region's oil wells and is threatening the holy sanctuaries of Mecca and Medina, the Soviet Union, too, in the same circumstances, is strengthening its ties with a regime that is occupying Qods [Jerusalem], the first Qiblah of Muslims [the direction in which Muslims pray, usually used in reference to Mecca].

Paper Calls For 'Worthwhile' Concessions From UK

LD0110105390 Tehran IRNA in English 0858 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—An Iranian daily Monday [1 October] commenting on normalization of Tehran-London ties wrote that Britain must give concession to Iran since Tehran by resumption of ties has provided an opportunity for London to prove its good-will.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial was referring to the last Thursday resumption of diplomatic ties between Tehran and London after 18 months of severance over the Salman Rushdie affair.

According to the paper during the past 12 years Britons have never been trustworthy and their policy towards Iran was indicative of their hostility.

The paper said that the British authorities were like a dumb and undisciplined kid who always fails because of his poor scores in school subjects including discipline, but is finally accepted to an upper grade after promising to improve.

The historical edict of the late Imam Khomeyni on the author of the blasphemous novel *The Satanic Verses* Salman Rushdie remains valid and Iran has not retreated even a single step, the paper stressed. One who had to retreat is Britain, which did so after having realized that its stance has pushed it to isolation, it added.

The British defeat is a major ideo-political victory for the Islamic community and for the Islamic Republic, the credit for which must go to the late imam.

"However, giving a chance to London to prove its good-will means giving a concession to the disillusioned Britons. Britons must realize the real value of this opportunity and demonstrate their good-will by reciprocating the move of the Islamic Republic of Iran and sincerely prove they want to make up for the past mistakes and establish sound relations with the Islamic Republic system," it added.

"The British Government struggling with a bankrupt economy and a trade deficit of 20 billion pounds plus, has new markets in mind to make up for the sudden decline in its exports to the oil-rich Persian Gulf countries (in the aftermath of the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait)" wrote the daily.

Stating that Tehran-London economic ties were not so much affected by the break of the diplomatic relations with its annual exports to Iran standing at about $500 million, the editorial stressed "the British Government is regarding the Islamic Republic as a stable country and a profitable market." Furthermore, "London has been under immense pressure from the British businessmen and companies to resume ties with Iran."

The paper in conclusion emphasized that it is time for the British Government to give concessions and urged the Iranian authorities to act vigilantly and more cautiously in order to get concessons from Britain which are "worthwhile". The Iranian officials should bear in mind that Britain is now longing for ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and for what such ties will bring for London.

Commentary Reaffirms Rushdie Death Decree

LD2809221290 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 28 Sep 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry has declared that as of September 27th 1990, the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain resumed their diplomatic relations on the basis of mutual respect. In March 1988, following London's support for Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous book *Satanic Verses*, the Islamic Consultative

Assembly severed diplomatic relations between Iran and Britain. During 19 months of severance of relations between Tehran and London, the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, frequently announced Britain's great interest in having relations with Iran. Also, the European Common Market states, which had recalled their ambassadors from Iran at the request of Britain, returned their ambassadors to Iran one by one and left Britain alone in the campaign against Iran. Also, the special session of the Islamic Conference, which had been convened in early March 1988, with complete decisiveness and resolutely reaffirmed Imam Khomeyni's decree and the world of Islam unitedly stood behind Iran. [as heard]

In May, Mrs. Thatcher, in a unprecedented and rare interview, placed emphasis on what she considered her own and her government's deep and profound respect for Islam. And on august 2nd, Douglas Hurd, too, expressed profound respect of the British government (?with some fresh words and phrases) and placed emphasis again on non-involvement of the British government in the publication of the *Satanic Verses*.

Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Supreme National Security Council accepted Britain's apology and allowed Iran's Foreign Ministry not to oppose the restoration of relations between Iran and Britain. However, Iranian officials continue to insist on their principled stance based on non-cancellation of the decree on Salman Rushdie's death; (?non-negligence) in the face of espionage activities of foreign subjects; and as to the British hostages held in Lebanon, conditioned Iran's contribution on a change in Britain's attitude towards regional issues. [as heard]

Britain, coming to know that the EEC is certain to normalize its relations with Tehran in spite of the fact that the death sentence for Salman Rushdie remained unchanged, (?persevered) to normalize its relations with Tehran and the normalization of relations between the two countries was announced yesterday. Also, in an interview which was broadcast simultaneously with the resumption of relations between the two countries of Iran and Britain, the author of the blasphemous *Satanic Verses* book, Salman Rushdie, said: If the goal had been to punish me, I have been somewhat punished.

Now, with regard to the 19 month long diplomatic crisis between Tehran and London, political observers regard it as necessary and important to turn attention to a few points: first, that the preservation and regard for Islam and Islamic principles are always of great importance for Iran at any juncture such that it is ready to rupture all diplomatic ties for the preservation of and in respect for these principles. Secondly, Iran will not tarnish or erode Islamic principles for the sake of the preservation of diplomatic ties as the [word indistinct] on the death of Salman Rushdie continues to remain as an Islamic decree. Thirdly, within the framework of bilateral relations, mutual respect and observance of the interests of the country and the world's Muslims are of paramount importance to Iran as it has been underlined in Tehran-London joint statements.

Paper Says U.S. 'Threat' Greater Than Occupation

NC2809202090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Sep 90 pp 1,16

[Mohammad Sarafraz Editorial: "The Main Threat in the Region!"]

[Excerpts] The question that comes to one's mind is: Which is more dangerous: Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait or America's acting as the gendarme in the entire region?

Definitely after the two-pole system in the world disintegrated, America saw the grounds ready for a one-pole system and for its so-called world leadership. Therefore, America's main objective in interfering in the Persian Gulf crisis was not because it felt sorry for the al-Sabah family, but because it wanted to prove its leadership role in the world and to impose this role on Europe and the Soviet Union. The possibility that America will want to place a fait accompli before the world should not be ruled out. Yesterday the American air force chief who revealed plans to bomb Baghdad and Saddam's headquarters was fired. The removal of this high-ranking military official from his office may have been deemed necessary in order to prevent possible protests by various countries that believe that steps against Iraq should be carried out through the United Nations.

If the Soviet Union and Europe are fooled by America's plans in this crisis, they will be inevitably surrendering to a system in the world in which America is the leader.

After defeating Iraq, will America want to act as the gendarme of the entire world? Future rivalries will be among the industrial and economic powers, and any country that can dominate the Persian Gulf oil wells will be the superior power. [passage omitted]

Even though Saddam's acting as gendarme in the region is dangerous, it nevertheless seems that the threat of America's acting as gendarme in the Persian Gulf is more dangerous. This is because Saddam is an individual, and the Ba'th party is only a group with flimsy ideas that cannot last forever. But America is a system, and fighting its diktat will be much more difficult and complicated.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, along with the regional countries, opposes the hegemony and long-term presence of America and of any other gendarme in the regime.

America is now silent about a security plan similar to NATO in the region and feigns to have retreated from former stands.

But it seems that this is only a tactic in order to keep the anti-American atmosphere quiet. Even in order to satisfy the shaykhs and rulers of the Persian Gulf, Washington pretends that this regional security plan will initially be implemented by Egypt and Syria. In other words, the armed forces of these two countries will safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf littoral states! At any rate, if the regional countries are not sufficiently alert, then the fate that the American forces will determine for them will be much worse than the fate of the Kuwaiti nation.

Editorial Views Al-Asad Visit to Tehran

NC2809211590 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
23 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Tehran Talks Chart the Future of Iranian-Syrian Relations"]

[Text] President al-Asad and his delegation have arrived in the Islamic Republic of Iran as our country is celebrating the victory of eight years of sacred defense. Informed political observers regard the Syrian president's visit as sensitive and effective and note that the Tehran talks cannot be detached from the Persian Gulf crisis and take their natural course as a mere friendly visit.

Even though Iraq's occupation of Kuwait was followed by major world condemnation, the extent of some countries' reaction nevertheless showed their sensitivity toward the future of the region and toward an active political presence in the area. Syria is one of the Arab countries which did not content itself with mere condemnation but dispatched its troops to Saudi territory and thus adopted a new political stand.

Damascus has always been regarded as a stronghold against the regime occupying Jerusalem, and many hope that it will always remain one. But does not the fact that today Syrian forces are deployed in Saudi Arabia next to the Egyptian forces and the forces of reactionary Arab and Western countries signal a change in Syria's stand?

In addition to discussions on the Persian Gulf crisis and on the outlook of the two countries' relations, the Tehran talks can also be considered an effort by Damascus to play the role of active mediator between the Islamic Republic and countries with which it has principled differences.

The two countries' political relations are entering a new phase now. In this phase the Islamic Republic does not intend to underestimate the support shown by the Syrian officials during the years of sacred defense, as—undoubtedly—Syria cannot doubt the current indisputable historic role of the Islamic Republic in solving the crisis in the region, in the future of the Middle East, and in solving the Palestinian and Lebanese problems. This is even though the two countries' past relations may have been affected by several ups and downs.

The Syrian officials are well aware of the fact that the Islamic Republic's support for the just rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese nations is within the framework of the policy of defending the world's oppressed and Muslims without having any other objective in mind. They are also well aware that the role the Islamic Republic has taken on amidst all the Muslim nations in the region and the world proves this reality.

But if in the Tehran talks Syria intends to play the role of mediator in improving Iran's relations with some countries, it should know that the Muslim people of Iran will never accept unprincipled stands. Therefore, making a point in the margin here may prevent time from being wasted.

The area today needs a general understanding among the progressive forces about establishing peace and solving deep-rooted historical problems such as the Palestinian problem. And if the Tehran-Damascus talks have gained such significance today, it is only because of Iran's revolutionary-Islamic stands and the reputation gained by Damascus for being a progressive government.

If the propagation of a revolutionary-Islamic spirit among the nations and the awakening of the Muslims following the Islamic revolution had brought the Islamic governments to their senses, foreign forces would never have had to come to the region because of a crisis situation and because of differences.

Iran's stand on the Persian Gulf crisis and on other international problems such as Lebanon and Palestine is clear to all regional countries and to the world. This stand can become the basis for further consolidating relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and progressive and anti-arrogant countries of the world.

Islamic Movement, Syrian Relations Assesed

NC2809195490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 24 Sep 90 p 9

[Editorial: "The World Movement of Islam and Syria's Stances"]

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic of Iran is hosting Syrian President Mr. Hafiz al-Asad and his delegation. Mr. al-Asad has come to Tehran at the invitation of the Islamic Republic's officials to exchange views at the highest possible level on regional problems.

Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran and Syria have established strong relations. During the past 11 years, these relations have moved toward consolidating the anti-Zionist front in the region. Syria, as the only frontline country in the fight against Israel, continues to be faithful to principles and criteria and is respected and supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran. In view of this, it has enjoyed the necessary material and moral assistance to preserve the strength of its position on this front, and it has preserved and expanded its good relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraq's imposed war on Iran was a good opportunity for Iran to find out who its friends and foes were. Syria can be proud of having adopted its firm stand since the outset of the imposed war. By stating that Iraq's confrontation with Iran was wrong, Syria sided with justice and clearly announced that it considers Iran and the Islamic Republic to be the supporter of the Muslim Arab nations, especially the oppressed Palestinian nation. [passage omitted]

We should laud Syria for having been able to discern correctly and for having adopted a realistic stand. Even though it could have acted much better in regard to the problems of Lebanon and Lebanon's Islamic resistance, when compared with others, it nevertheless acted well in general. [passage omitted]

Those who reproached Syria for years on end because it showed understanding toward the Islamic Republic of Iran today want to exploit the popularity that Syria enjoys with the Islamic revolution in order to convey a message to the officials of the Islamic Republic. But the region's complicated problems have reached a critical and dangerous point, and every second the possibility increases for an incident that might direct developments toward a point of no return. Under such circumstances, the understanding and cooperation that exist in the strategic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria display their determining role much better than at any other time.

As the largest regional power and the gravity center of the world's Islamic movement, Iran is now playing the role of "the anchor of stability in the region" and has announced its stand on ending Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait and on America and the other NATO armies' ending the occupation of the oil-rich area of the world of Islam.

The region's Muslims will not tolerate the occupation of the land of revelation by America. The nations of the region will never tolerate the intervention by NATO's forces aimed at creating a new security system in the heart of the oil-rich area of the world of Islam, and they will not spare any efforts in order to crush such preparations.

Any attempt, effort, or step that will, in one way or another, divert attention from Israel to another point is deviatory and should be stopped. Any attempt, effort, or step that will, in one way or another, make the threat of Israel forgotten is a great treachery against the Palestinian nation, against the regional countries, and against the world of Islam and should be confronted.

This is a point which no one can deny. This is a cry that no one can silence through deviatory propaganda. This is a cry that rises from the heart and thus touches the hearts. And the last word in the region will be heard from the same mouth which issues this cry.

Commentary Cites Effects of Oil Price Hikes

NC2809201090 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 23 Sep 90 p 1

[Commentary: "Oil Prices Have Gone Beyond ABRAR's Forecasts"]

[Excerpts] The price of crude oil on the world's free markets at the end of transactions Friday was $35.43 per barrel and thus went beyond the $35 forecast by oil observers. [passage omitted]

The truth is that the disturbing reports that news agencies have been publishing, especially during recent days, speak of the alignment of hostile powers's forces and the possibility of a regional conflict, and this has led to tension and instability in the world's oil markets. Fears are being expressed that if the current trend continues, the price of oil will go beyond the $40 mark within the next few days and that during the coming weeks, especially withwinter approaching, this price may even go as high as $50 a barrel. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that the big industrial countries such as France, America, Britain, Italy, Japan, Canada, and Germany have strategic reserves to last them 110 days. However, the developing countries of the Third World will bear the brunt of this situation and will find themselves facing heavy expenses which will upset their budgets.

Taking the regional situation into account, some oil observers forecast that prices will surpass even the $50 mark and reach the $65 mark within the next few weeks.

A report by news agencies last night said that for the first time the price of North Sea oil was higher than American oil on the European oil markets and reached $36.90 a barrel.

Commentary Views Turkish Position on Gulf

NC2809173590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Sep 90 p 2

[Commentary from the "Weekly Political Analysis" column: "Turkey: NATO's Spokesman"]

[Text] With the culmination of the crisis in the region, some countries that considered it in their interests to silently watch the scene and to simply benefit from interests brought about by crises are now preparing the grounds for explicit and sometimes surprising statements.

In his recent statements, Turkish President Ozal spoke blatantly about the interest that Turkey was able to reap during the past few years because of the Iran-Iraq war, as well as about assistance to the aggressive Iraqi regime during the war. At the same time he pointed out that Saddam's political life cannot continue. In relation to this, he referred to another point which is extremely noteworthy.

Turkish President Ozal announced that the end of the current Persian Gulf crisis will also mark a change in the region's geographical map. These flagrant and questionable statements strengthen the belief of some world media that Turkey has an eye on Iraq's northern oil reserves. Ozal speaks so confidently about this that it seems as though Washington and the other NATO members have already given him the green light on this.

The meaning behind Ozal's remarks and his true objectives in making them should be explained by Turkish officials.

There is one basic issue in this, and its significance and sensitivity increase more and more each day.

There is no question that Iraq is a greedy and aggressive regime. There is no question about Iraq's resorting to extortion against everyone and making extortion the pivot of its foreign policy. There is no question that if Iraq finds the opportunity, it will set fire to the entire region and destroy the region's security and calm with its desire for more. But who has encouraged and strengthened the aggressor? Turkey—with its president's confession of its direct role—should be considered guilty.

But what is the solution? The solution is to severely punish the aggressor both by words and by deeds and to strive to wipe out all the signs of aggression. For Turkey to probably try to benefit from the crisis in the region and speak about "a change in regional geography" and to covet Iraq's northern oil reserves is neither logical nor acceptable.

Iraq does not belong to Saddam so that its geographical map can be changed because of his military attempt against Kuwait.

If this happens, a serious and intolerable blow will be inflicted on the Iraqi people. The independence and territorial integrity of each country is among the rights of its people and should not change with the regime or ruling organs. Just as Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity are dear and no change in them is acceptable, so are Iraq's independence and territorial integrity. No alteration in any form or with any justification will be acceptable.

Such remarks only fan the flames of the crisis and deepen it. Such remarks only show the dimensions of a tragedy which is threatening the heart of the Islamic world's oil-rich area.

We have been harmed more than anyone else by the Baghdad regime's crimes and aggressions. But this does not mean that we will accept an irreparable blow to the Iraqi nation and will take lightly Iraq's separation from its oil reserves in the north. Here the issue is NATO's gaining access to and seizing the region's oil wells and reserves. It is within this context that the recent remarks by the Turkish president as a NATO member in the region show their true meaning. The true meaning and the intention behind these remarks are vague. If satisfactory explanations are given by Turkey, it will be possible to prevent the crisis from spreading. God willing.

Paper Assails Libya's Use of 'Arabian Gulf' Term

NC2709192590 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
6 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Using a Forged Name for the Persian Gulf Even at Home"]

[Text] As long as universally recognized and accepted laws, principles, and criteria which guarantee peace and calm are ignored because of governments' tastes, games, political ploys, and illegal interests, it is not surprising for a crisis or for tension to spring up in one part of the world or another at any given time.

Laws that are accepted by the nations of the world are not compiled in order to please one government and politician or another. These laws are compiled to regulate international and global relations on the basis of historic, geographic, and human principles and criteria. Respect for these laws guarantees the rule of calm, peace, and stability in the world.

Therefore we should look for the reason behind each crisis and the tension that takes place when an international law is violated.

We will not go very far, and it will suffice to glance at the Persian Gulf crisis. Did not the violation of the sovereignty of a country, the aggression against the territorial integrity of a country, and the attack on and occupation of a country disregard world laws?

The interesting point is that governments which condemn the principle of aggression and the violation of Kuwait's sovereignty are themselves the violators of rules and international laws. Are not those who have given a forged name to the Persian Gulf not violators of rules and international laws? We will not go into historical discussions on the Persian Gulf and on the fact that its several thousands of years of history proves how this international waterway has always carried the name Persian. However, we will ask those who advocate allegience to world laws why they are ignoring the UN decision on using the name Persian Gulf for this internatinal waterway and how they find Arab nationalism, which has been shattered under the boots of domination and arrogance in forging historical names.

Probably the task of reprimanding world plotters for having omitted the word "Persian" from this waterway and demanding that they use its true and historical name may need more time. But it is regrettable to see that there are those inside this country who are allowed to use the forged name of the Arabian Gulf.

The Libyan Embassy's news bulletin published in Iran unfortunately dared to use this forged name for the Persian Gulf and to disseminate this news bulletin throughout the country.

Long ago the Foreign Ministry should have issued the necessary warning on using this forged name for the waterway to all embassies which consider the name Persian Gulf to be a thorn in their side. This way at least the plots of arrogance inside the country would not have been hatched in this ugly and insulting way.

If the Foreign Ministry is unable to confront this plot at home, then it will definitely be disarmed vis-a-vis the propaganda by arrogance on the world scene.

Pakistan

Alliance Formed by Bhutto Splits in Sindh

BK0210001890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1929 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 1 (AFP)—A faction of the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) in Pakistan's southern Sindh province said here Monday that it was breaking away from the alliance formed last month by former Premier Benazir Bhutto. The split could seriously affect the pro-Bhutto platform's campaign not only in Sindh but in other provinces, analysts here said.

Syed Waqar Hussain Naqvi, head of the provincial wing of the Shi'ite Moslem Tehrik-e-Nifaze-e-Fiqah Jafria (TNJF), said in a press statement that the break was due to differences on the allocation of seats for this month's elections. "The TNJF would now contest elections from all seats on which they were nominated and would not withdraw in favour of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) with whom negotiations failed," the statement said.

Mr. Naqvi said the decision was made due to the "irresponsible attitude" of the PPP, the former ruling party of Ms. Bhutto. The PDA included the PPP, the TNFJ and the Tehrik-e-Isteqlal Party.

Analysts believe the breakaway was prompted by a reported understanding between the PPP and the fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Ulema Pakistan (JUP) to support JUP leader Shah Ahmed Noorani in elections in Karachi. The decision coincided with the release of the final list of PDA candidates.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), which dominates the caretaker government, is also threatened with a split in Sindh because of differences on the allocation of seats to its fundamentalist faction, the jamaat-e-islami. Differences surfaced when Nawaz Sharif, the IJI president and arch rival of Ms. Bhutto, recently announced an electoral understanding with the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) representing Urdu-speaking settlers from India.

Mr. Sharif decided to withdraw IJI candidates from contesting the October 24 polls in Karachi and Hyderabad to make way for the MQM. The decision has been challenged by the secretary general of the IJI.

Army Chief on Indian Troop Movements, Elections

BK0110160090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] The Pakistani Army will ensure that elections are held on schedule and any attempt from any quarter to thwart the process will be dealt with very firmly. This assurance was given by Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg during a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimuddin in Rawalpindi today. The Army chief reaffirmed his resolve not to leave any stone unturned in ensuring the peaceful holding of elections. The Army chief added that an extremely dangerous plot to cause a grave law and order situation in the country has been discovered recently. The troublemakers had planned to vitiate the atmosphere throught the country, but they were specifically planning to cause disturbances in Sindh Province.

General Mirza Aslam Beg also informed the chief election commissioner that India had begun to move its 12th Army Corps from the peacetime locations—Jodhpur and Sikandarabad—to the outskirts of Bikaner and Barmer near the Pakistani border. There are clear indications of intensified Indian military activities in occupied Kashmir. This situation and some incidents on the borders are of an extremely serious nature because they are occurring at a time when political activities in the country are moving into full swing.

General Beg also explained the reasons for the postponement of his scheduled visit to China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He said the revelation of the plot to create large-scale disturbances in the country and the extremely serious movement and activities of the Indian Armed Forces near the Pakistani borders, as well as in occupied Kashmir, were the basic factors that led to the postponement of his visit.

The chief election commissioner informed him of the requirements of the Army personnel and reservists to maintain law and order during the 24 and 27 October elections, and stressed the need for coordination between the Armed Forces Headquarters and the Chief Election Commission.

MUSLIM Cites Spokesman on India Talks, Gulf

BK0110144390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Oct 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 30—The third round of Pakistan-India Secretary-level talks is likely to be postponed till middle of November as the two sides have not been able to settle mutually convenient dates in the month of October as originally planned.

Talking to newsmen, a Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan wanted the talks to take place by the first week of October to which the Indian side did not agree and instead indicated to hold the talks by the middle of October. In view of the forthcoming elections in Pakistan, the Foreign Office has expressed its inability to oblige the Indian side.

The spokesman said the new government which would come into being by the first week of November, would be engaged in preparation for SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] conferences. Thus if the talks are not held in the first fortnight of October, they have to be deferred till the middle of November. The spokesman said so far the Indians have not indicated any date for the talks and a final decision would be made on the receipt of suggestion by Pakistan.

In reply to a question the spokesman said there was no change in the border situation between the two countries which continued to be tense. The Indian armed forces continued to maintain a war-like position and there have been clashes on the ceasefire line in Kashmir.

However, the situation was not alarming as such clashes have become a matter of routine.

Talking about the Gulf situation, he denied reports published in some Western newspapers that Pakistan had agreed to send 100,000 troops to Saudi Arabia. He said no such agreement has been made and Saudi Arabia has not requested for such a large number of Pakistani troops. Pakistan, he said, had no plan to send more troops to Saudi Arabia other than the 5,000 which it had already agreed to dispatch. He said up till now half of the agreed number of troops have been sent while the remaining half would leave for Saudi Arabia when the Saudis asked for them.

The spokesman denied reports that the country was sending an armed division to Saudi Arabia. He said no such request was received and Pakistan has no plan to send its armed division there.

Describing the Pakistani-Iraqi relations as not cordial, the spokesman, however, denied receiving any protest from Iraq against the dispatch of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia.

He agreed that Pakistan was the worst affected country because of the Gulf crisis.

In reply to another question, the spokesman was confident that the nuclear waver would be granted by the U.S. President and American assistance to Pakistan would continue.

Islamic Alliance Defies Pact; To Oppose Muhajirs

BK0110143790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1403 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 1 (AFP)—The right-wing Jamaat-i Islami faction of Pakistan's Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) is defying an alliance decision not to field candidates against the ethnic Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), party sources said Monday. The six Jamaat-I-Islami candidates for National Assembly seats in Karachi and Hyderabad did not withdraw nomination papers by Sunday midnight, the election commission's registration deadline for October 24 elections, the Jamaat-I-Islami sources said.

They said the six candidates included Ghafoor Ahmed, deputy leader of the Jamaat-i Islami and secretary-general of the IJI. IJI President Nawaz Sharif announced Friday that parties in the alliance would not field candidates against the MQM in Muhajir-dominated Karachi and Hyderabad, where the MQM won 13 out of 15 seats in the 1988 elections.

Mr. Ahmed said Mr. Sharif had unilaterally decided not to field candidates against the MQM, also an alliance member, in Karachi and Hyderabad without consulting the Jamaat-i Islami. But an advisor to Mr. Sharif said the decision had been made at a meeting of the leaders of the parties in the combined opposition to former Premier Benazir Bhutto.

The Jamaat-I-Islami sources said Mr. Ahmed had asked the chief election commissioner to accept his signatures for verifying the IJI candidates' nomination papers. But the Karachi election commission officers had refused to allot the IJI election symbol to the Jamaat-i Islami candidates and had assigned them another symbol instead, the sources said.

They added that caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi had contacted the Jamaat-i Islami leader Sunday to try to resolve the growing rift within the alliance.

Leaders Send Greetings on PRC Anniversary

BK0110063890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi in their separate messages extended greetings to Yang Shangkun and Li Feng, the president and the premier of the PRC, on the 41st anniversary of the Chinese revolution being observed today. In his message, the president expressed the confidence that relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would further develop and stabilize in the future to the mutual benefit of people of both countries. In his message, the prime minister hoped that close bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

Ishaq Khan Reception

BK0210041890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Oct 90

[Text] Speaking to Chinese Ambassador Tian Ding at a reception hosted in Islamabad yesterday in connection with the PRC founding anniversary, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed confidence that the current close friendly and cooperative relations between Pakistan and PRC will be further strengthened in the years to come. The president asked the Chinese ambassador to convey his greetings and best wishes to Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Prime Minister Li Peng on the occasion.

The Chinese ambassador said both the countries have always assisted and supported each other not only in international matters but also in the maintenance of national sovereignty and economic progress. On Kashmir, the Chinese ambassador said his country strongly believes in a peaceful settlement of the issue.

Editorial Views Solarz Efforts on Bhutto, Issues

BK2909135590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Sep 90 p 4

[Editorial: "At It Again"]

[Text] The United States would cut its aid to Pakistan should Ms. Benazir Bhutto be disallowed to participate in the elections scheduled to be held on October 24, as stated by a spokesman for Mr Stephen Solarz, Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs in Washington on Wednesday. The spokesman further said the U.S. would consider the election process unfair if Ms. Bhutto was not allowed to contest the poll. Senator [title as received] Solarz has also been as busy as a bee on Pakistan in the context of cut-off of aid to this country. He has written a letter to President Bush urging him to cut off aid to Pakistan asserting that this country has ignored American demands to curtail its programme to develop nucelar weapons. Under the Symington Amendment, the U.S. President has to certify that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapon and that American assistance wil reduce the risk that Pakistan will acquire such a device. That decision, required by law, is usually made before the new fiscal year which begins on October 1.

Mr Solarz has always been particularly concerned about Pakistan more especially its nuclear programme, notwithstanding this country's repeated assurances that its nuclear programme is geared solely to peaceful purposes. The only reassuring aspect of Mr Solarz's latest onslaught is that a senior official spokesman of the U.S. Administration has complained that Congress was taking a tougher stance towards Pakistan's nuclear activities than towards India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974. It is an acknowledged fact that Pakistan has never exploded a nuclear device. Pakistan has repeatedly contradicted reports, mostly carried in the Western media, that it has developed a nuclear device. Despite this, as October 1 approaches every year, Senator Solarz and those of his ilk start their theme-song of discontinuance of economic and military aid to us. Mr Solarz's letter to Mr Bush appears to be based on conjecture, as admitted by the author. The letter says, "On the basis of a number of reports I've received from unclassified sources, I have the impression that Pakistan's commitment to respect the various markers we set last year have not been met."

Senator Solarz's statement about the forthcoming polls in Pakistan and Ms Bhutto's participation, or otherwise, in them, is a clear interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan. How we conduct our elections is something which is entirely our own concern. Also, the caretaker crowd are perfectly aware of public attitudes in the country towards the present selective accountability being carried out, and would think twice before doing anything now which would erode their credibility further. As for our nuclear programme, if Mr Solarz wishes to use it as an annual excuse for twisting our arms, there is hardly anything we can do about it.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Stand on Nuclear Issue

BK2509151190 Lahore THE NATION in English 23 Sep 90 p 4

[Article by Mushahid Hussain: "Oakley's Mission: Reviving the Nuclear Spectre"]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley's visit to Islamabad had an agenda which is now familiar with Pakistan policy-makers. Far from any focus on the Gulf crisis or Pakistan's disjointed domestic scene, Oakley came with a specific message dealing only with the nuclear issue. His 48-hour journey to Islamabad (he is on vacation in the U.S. till October 5) included meetings at the Foreign Office plus the President, Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff.

Oakley's 4-point message to the Pakistani leadership was characteristically blunt and categorical. It reiterated America's long-standing concern on the question of nuclear proliferation and conveyed that "the Bush Administration feels even more strongly than the Reagan Administration" on an issue that has been the single most important cause of friction, and indeed serious divergence of perspective, in bilateral Pakistani-American relations. Given this context Oakley outlined the official U.S. line:

—Pakistan "must freeze all nuclear activities";
—U.S. "concern on the nuclear issue is heightened due to the regional tensions" particularly Pakistan-India ties over the Kashmir insurgency;
—This time around, President Bush "might find it difficult to certify that Pakistan is not engaged in a nuclear weapons programme", an annual requirement of American law before aid is cleared for Pakistan;
—If "Bush is unable to provide this certificate, American aid to Pakistan can be affected".

Interestingly, this is the second formal threat from the United States to cut off aid to Pakistan within the last five months, the first being expressed over alleged Pakistani support to the Kashmiri freedom-fighters in Occupied Kashmir. That unsubstantiated allegation would, in the official American perspective, fall in the purview of US laws regarding "terrorism fomented by a state".

The revival of American pressures over the nuclear issue, in terms of timing, should be seen in three contexts. First, the Oakley message came on the eve of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's Beijing visit. China was the first country to break the U.S.-led international nuclear embargo on Pakistan, which was in place since 1976, when Chinese Premier Li Peng announce in November 1989 that this country would sell a Nuclear Power Plant to Pakistan. Oakley was telling Pakistan, in effect, not to expand nuclear cooperation with China during the Presidential visit.

Second, in the context of the Gulf crisis and Iraq's known chemical and missile capabiliities, the U.S. is keen to lump together the issue of missiles, chemical and Nuclear weapons in one package so as to convey that U.S. is against all sorts of proliferation and not just against Iraq, but also its "friends" in the region like Pakistan. However, India and Israel are, of course, exempt from such pressures.

Third, the timing is determined by the impending Bush certification which is due any time after October 1, the beginning of the U.S. fiscal year. The last Bush certification came on October 5, 1989, which allowed U.S. aid worth US $590 million for Fiscal Year 1990, including U.S. $230 million in military assistance.

By deploying the ultimate American lever, that of aid, against Pakistan, what does the U.S. hope to achieve? Ironically, this American pressure comes at a time when Pakistani troops have been sent to Saudi Arabia as part of the multinational force operating under the aegis of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Instead of thanking Pakistan for coming on board the most significant U.S. military build-up in the Third World since the Vietnam War, the American act of reciprocity is renewed arm-twisting on the nuclear issue.

The American design is clear. By seeking to decimate the Iraqi military machine and to pressure Pakistan into acquiescing on the nuclear issue, the United States wants to ensure that a castrated Muslim World will lie prostrate before only two Nuclear powers, both of them Non-Muslim, Israel and India. Bereft of military teeth, the Muslim World will only have a lot of manpower, lot of money (most of it stashed away in Western banks) and lot of "moderate Muslims" ready to do the Americans bidding and willing to accept the twin hegemony of Israel and India.

For Pakistan, such pressure is simply unacceptable. The US position is based on double-standards, it violates Pakistan's sovereign right to seek all available means for our defense and to top it all, it is designed to weaken our security. The only reason India was deterred from attacking Pakistan during Exercise Brass Tacks in 1987 or now during the Kashmir Uprising has been due to fear of Pakistan's Nuclear capability. Succumbing to pressure on this count is tantamount to signing off our sovereignty and assuming a permanent client status vis-a-vis India in South Asia.

In any case, the Americans should be told to dispense with their hypocrisy on this issue, especially when they have consistently and deliberately winked at Israel's nuclear weapons and even India's own covertly expanding programme of developing chemical weapons since 1985, to reinforce its missile and nuclear capability.

Saddam Urged To Retract From Kuwait, Save Face

BK3009064090 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Tightening the Noose"]

[Text] At one stage President Saddam might well have believed that he could break out of his present state of isolation by some skilful manoeuvring, while hanging on to Kuwait. But the passage of the UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday [18 September] should come as a warning to the Iraqi leader that he is in danger of fast losing the few friends who have continued to be loyal to him. The Council resolution, which is the seventh in the series on the Gulf crisis, bans almost all air traffic to and from Iraq. If the air blockade succeeds, it would leave Baghdad totally cut off from the outside world. Which would make its economic straits intolerable. It is not just the economic and strategic implications of this latest move however, that should be disturbing for President Saddam. What should cause him greater concern is that two Arab states, which stood by him for the better part of the crisis are no longer backing him as resolutely as before. Yemen, which had abstained on all the Security Council resolutions castigating Iraq in the last seven weeks, proceeded to vote in support of the latest draft on Tuesday. As for Jordan, until recently it had refused to line up with the Americans in confronting Baghdad, even though it had condemned the invasion of Kuwait. Now in keeping with the directives of Resolution 670, the Jordanian government has announced that it is cutting off air links with Iraq.

If one were to accept the contention advanced in some quarters that military confrontation is the only way to make President Saddam mend his ways, the emerging situation would be found quite acceptable. But it is open to question whether the military option is the best one in dealing with the present crisis. The prospects of a full-scale war in this strategically sensitive but politically soft region are alarming enough to counsel restraint and instill some rational thinking in all governments involved one way or another in the current imbroglio. A war would create more problems than it would solve. The loss of human lives would be enormous and economic destruction incalculable. Above all, the political balance in the region would be shaken so badly that for years to come there will be no peace and stability in the Middle East. It is thus more important that a political initiative is mounted in a bid to make President Saddam see reason. He must withdraw from Kuwait. This goal can be achieved by having recourse to diplomacy. The aim should be to restore the status quo ante by providing an opening to the Iraqi leader to retract without too much of a loss of face. The idea is not so much to humiliate Mr Saddam Husayn as to establish the supremacy of international law that he continues to defy. It should be left to the people of Iraq to decide what to do with a leader of their own whose military ambitions have got the better of him and whose ill-judged actions have brought so much of hardship and rigours on them and have exposed their country and the region to grave damages.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Opposes Citizens Joining Iraqi Army

BK0110162590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 1 (AFP)—Sri Lanka Monday rapped Iraq's envoy here for his claim in a state-owned newspaper that Baghdad was recruiting Sri Lankans to fight the U.S, and warned him that Colombo would not tolerate such actions. The SUNDAY OBSERVER quoted Tariq Ahmed Maroof as saying in an interview that Iraq planned to recruit Sri Lankans for the war against "U.S. imperialists, and already about 1,000 applications" had been finalised.

"The Ministry of Foreign affairs wishes to dissociate itself completely from the references (made in the interview)," an official statement said. Mr. Maroof was summoned to the Foreign Office and told he had "violated the third country rule in that he had used the media to attack a friendly country" and by implication associated the Sri Lankan people with his assertions, the statement said.

"He has been advised against repetitions of this nature and he has undertaken not be in breach of the third country rule in the future," it said, adding that Mr. Maroof "alleged that he was misquoted and that he had received letters from over a thousand volunteers supporting Iraq." The terse statement said Colombo had informed Mr. Maroof it would not permit its nationals to proceed to Iraq "as claimed by him and he has agreed that (he) will not issue visas to such persons."

Colombo has opposed Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait, where more than 70,000 Sri Lankan workers have been stranded since the crisis began. Thousands of others have returned home aboard special flights. Observers here say Colombo has refrained from making an outright condemnation of the invasion because of the stranded Sri Lankan workers in both countries who are in the process of being repatriated.

Mr. Maroof was quoted by the newspaper as saying the delay in sending the Sri Lankan recruits to Iraq was "due to Iraq already having one million under uniform and another six million awaiting mobilisation."

Premadasa Sends National Day Greetings to PRC

BK0110101390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0818 GMT 1 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 1 (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa has sent a message of felicitation to the president of the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the 41st aniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, which falls on 1st October, 1990, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

LTTE Rebels Kill Sinhalese Civilians in East

BK0110123590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 1 (AFP)—Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland Monday massacred nine civilians from the majority Sinhalese community and injured three others in renewed violence in eastern Sri Lanka, officials said. Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) shot and hacked to death at least nine villagers in Ampara District early Monday, a military spokesman here said, adding three others had been admitted to hospital with serious injuries.

The dead included six men, two women and a child, the spokesman added. He said that a heavily-armed group of more than a dozen rebels had entered the village of Peruwalatalawa at around 1:00 a.m. (1930 GMT Sunday) and opened fire on home guards based there.

The rebels had split into two groups, one engaging the home guards—Colombo armed and trained villagers—to allow the other unit to go on the rampage. Army reinforcements that were rushed to the scene drove away the attackers after a fierce battle, the spokesman said, adding that he could not confirm casualities in the fire-fight. No further details were available, he added.

The attack follows a slaughter of 23 Sinhalese villagers by the Tigers on September 20 in a fishing colony outside the Northern Mannar District and military officials said it was a tactic to disrupt an army offensive in the north.

The LTTE, whose members belong to the minority Tamil community, has been accused of killing hundreds of Sinhalese civilians since 1983 when a bloody ethnic conflict broke out between the Sinhalese and Tamils. The guerrilla group stepped up its attacks on civilian targets when the army began its offensive against the guerrillas a couple of weeks after the Tigers broke off peace talks and resumed their military campaign on June 11.

During a 24 hour period ending August 8, the LTTE were reported to have butchered 57 Sinhalese villagers in two separate incidents in the Tamil-majority northeast where the guerrillas want to carve out their separate nation. Colombo also charged the rebels with massacring more than 200 Moslem civilians in August, an allegation denied by the Tigers.

Following the increased attacks on civilians in the east, the Sri Lankan Government recruited, armed and trained hundreds of Sinhalese and Moslem villagers to protect their homes from raids by the LTTE. The Ampara District, from where the latest attack on civilians was reported, has a mixed population of Sinhalese, Tamils and Moslems, the other minority group that has been drawn into the current conflict.

Ampara and Batticaloa, to the north, were the two districts where violence first erupted in June after the Tigers seized hundreds of police hostages to start anew their campaign for independence from Colombo. Unofficial and official sources estimate that nearly 4,275 people including large numbers of civilians have died in the violence since June 11.

Jaffna Curfew Lifted; Five Militants Killed

BK0110130090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0649 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 1 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Monday lifted an indefinite curfew clamped on the northern Jaffna peninsula, the domain of Tamil rebels, five days after the evacuation of an Army-held fort, officials here said. A military spokesman here said that the curfew was removed with effect from 6.00 A.M (0030 GMT) Monday, with the exception of the Valikamam area of the peninsula.

Military officials said that Valikamam covers a vast area which includes the main Palaly Air Force Base and the Kankesanthurai Army Camp which have frequently come under rebel mortar fire. The spokesman also said that troops shot dead at least five rebels in operations in the east during the last 24 hours.

Observers said that the lifting of the curfew was yet another sign that Colombo had for the time being curtailed its northern military offensive against guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). On Wednesday, troops suddenly pulled out from the Jaffna fort after Colombo decided that it was not of strategic value in the current offensive. The LTTE moved into the camp hours after the army evacuation.

Diplomats here said the heavy financial costs involved and the non-availability of a free supply of arms and ammunition from abroad for the military would have slowed down Colombo's offensive against the Tigers. But the LTTE has alleged that the air force conducted bombing missions over the Jaffna peninsula even after troops pulled out from the fort.

The Jaffna peninsula, almost exclusively inhabited by Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, has been the traditional stronghold of the Tamil Tigers who on June 11 renewed their campaign to establish a separate state in the island's northeast. The Tamil-dominated northeast since then has been embroiled in violence costing the lives of more than 4,200 people including hundreds of civilians.

The Army maintained an on-off curfew in several northern districts from June in a bid to restrict rebel movements during Army operations but the curfew was of longer duration and strictly enforced in the Jaffna peninsula. The curfew was briefly removed in the first week of September and then re-imposed on September 12, to help government troops break a three-month siege of the fort the next day. Two weeks later, they made the surprise evacuation from the peninsula's main Army garrison.

The LTTE blockaded most Army camps in northern Sri Lanka after the resumption of hostilities but a major military thrust into the heartland of Tiger territory relieved the siege on some camps. The military spokesman said that the rebels continued to direct mortar and small arms fire on the vital northern elephant pass camp located near a causeway that links the peninsula with the rest of the island.

Police commandos killed at least three Tigers when they raided a LTTE camp in eastern Ampara District, the spokesman said, adding that camouflage uniforms, refrigerators, a tractor and 20 iron beds were found there. The commandos also seized two AK-47 automatic rifles and 300 rounds of ammunition during search operations elsewhere in the district.

Security forces gunned down two more guerrillas who were laying anti-personnel mines in neighbouring Batticaloa District, the spokesman said, adding troops did not suffer casualties in operations in the last 24 hours.

Tamil Militant Arrested in Bombay With Heroin

BK0110102190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0757 GMT 1 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, 1 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The narcotics cell of the Bombay police scored a major success yesterday when officers of the cell arrested a leader of a Sri Lankan Tamil separatist organisation. According to Rahul Sur, deputy commissioner of police, a top Sri Lankan Tamil militant, Captain Kumar Chinniah alias Vamadeva, was nabbed with 1.4 kg of heroin on his person.

A report in the 'INDEPENDENT' monitored by LANKAPUVATH further states that Rahul Sur said Chinniah, arrested in the vicinity of Novelty cinema at Grant Road after days of tracking, was found to be in possession of a notebook with details of various types of weapons, explosives, military tactics, strategies and different types of radios.

The Sri Lankan Government had offered a price of Rs. [rupees] 5 lakhs [100,000's] for Chinniah after he led an attack on the Nikaveratiya police station near Colombo in 1985, and in which over 25 police officers were killed. Chimnah also reportedly admitted to killing "thousands" of Sinhalese. Sur said that two of Chinniah's accomplices, Jaganathan, 27, and Samuel Pushpadas Christian alias Shella, 28, were also arrested.